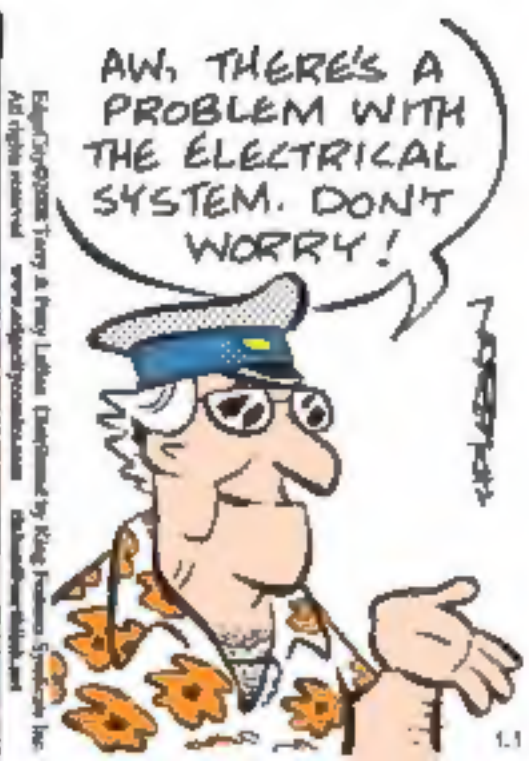
IT'S GETTING LATE. MAYBE WE SHOULD HEAD IN.
YEAH--I WANT TO HIT THE EARLY BIRD SPECIAL AT "THE CROW'S NEST."

UH-OH! THE BOAT WON'T START!
HUH?! WHAT'S GOING ON?
AND THE RADIO'S DEAD!

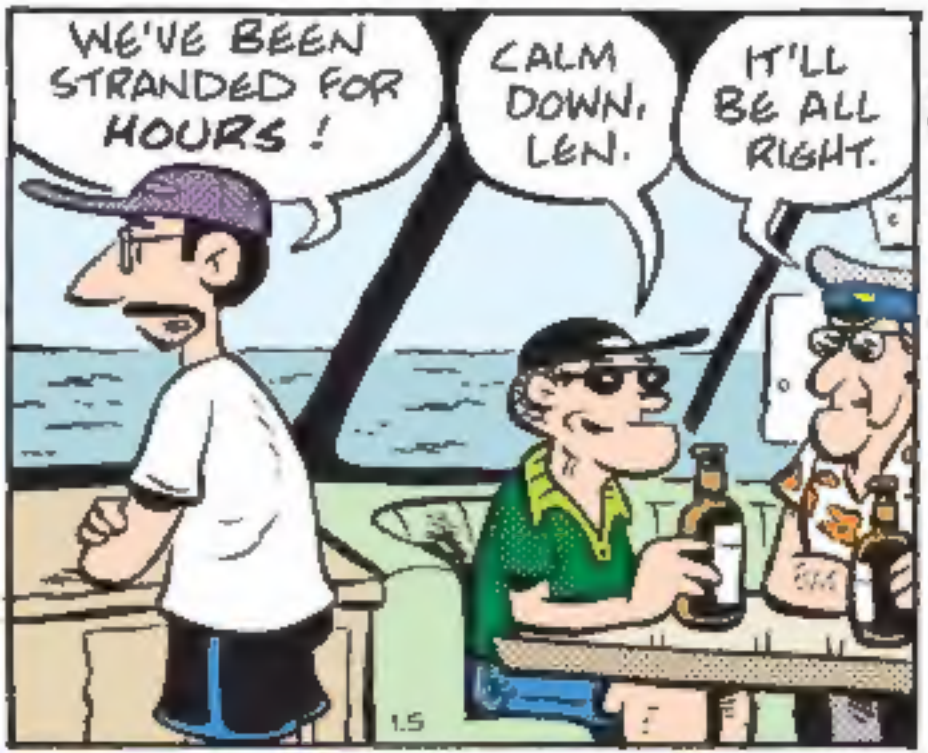

AW, THERE'S A PROBLEM WITH THE ELECTRICAL SYSTEM. DON'T WORRY!

I'VE ALWAYS MANAGED TO GET IT STARTED BEFORE.
ACTUALLY, I AM WORRIED..
WAP! WAP! WAP!

THE BOAT WON'T START AND THE RADIO'S DEAD?
YEAH-- THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH THE ELECTRICAL SYSTEM.
HOW LONG HAVE YOU KNOWN ABOUT IT?
A WHILE. IT USUALLY COMES RIGHT BACK ON.
I'VE BEEN MEANING TO GET IT LOOKED AT, BUT SERVICE CALLS ARE EXPENSIVE.
IF YOU'RE GOING TO OWN A YACHT, YOU NEED TO TAKE CARE OF IT!
HEY, I'M ON A FIXED INCOME!

THE YACHT WON'T START AND THE RADIO'S DEAD?
YEAH -- AND CELL PHONES DON'T WORK OUT HERE!
SO -- WE'RE STRANDED ON THE OPEN SEA?
YUP -- TILL SOMEONE COMES TO RESCUE US.
THAT COULD TAKE DAYS! WHAT'LL WE EAT? WHAT'LL WE DRINK?!
I'VE GOT A DELI TRAY AND TWO CASES OF BEER.
HOW LONG WILL THAT LAST?!
POKER, ANYONE?

I WENT OUT FISHING WITH MY FATHER-IN-LAW AND HIS FRIEND. NOW THE BOAT WON'T START AND THE RADIO'S DEAD!
WE'RE STRANDED... DRIFTING ON THE OPEN SEA! AND I'M NOT SURE WE'RE GOING TO MAKE IT!
I CAN'T TAKE THIS ANYMORE!
IF YOU QUIT NOW, LEN, YOU'LL NEVER WIN YOUR MONEY BACK.
MY TURN TO DEAL.



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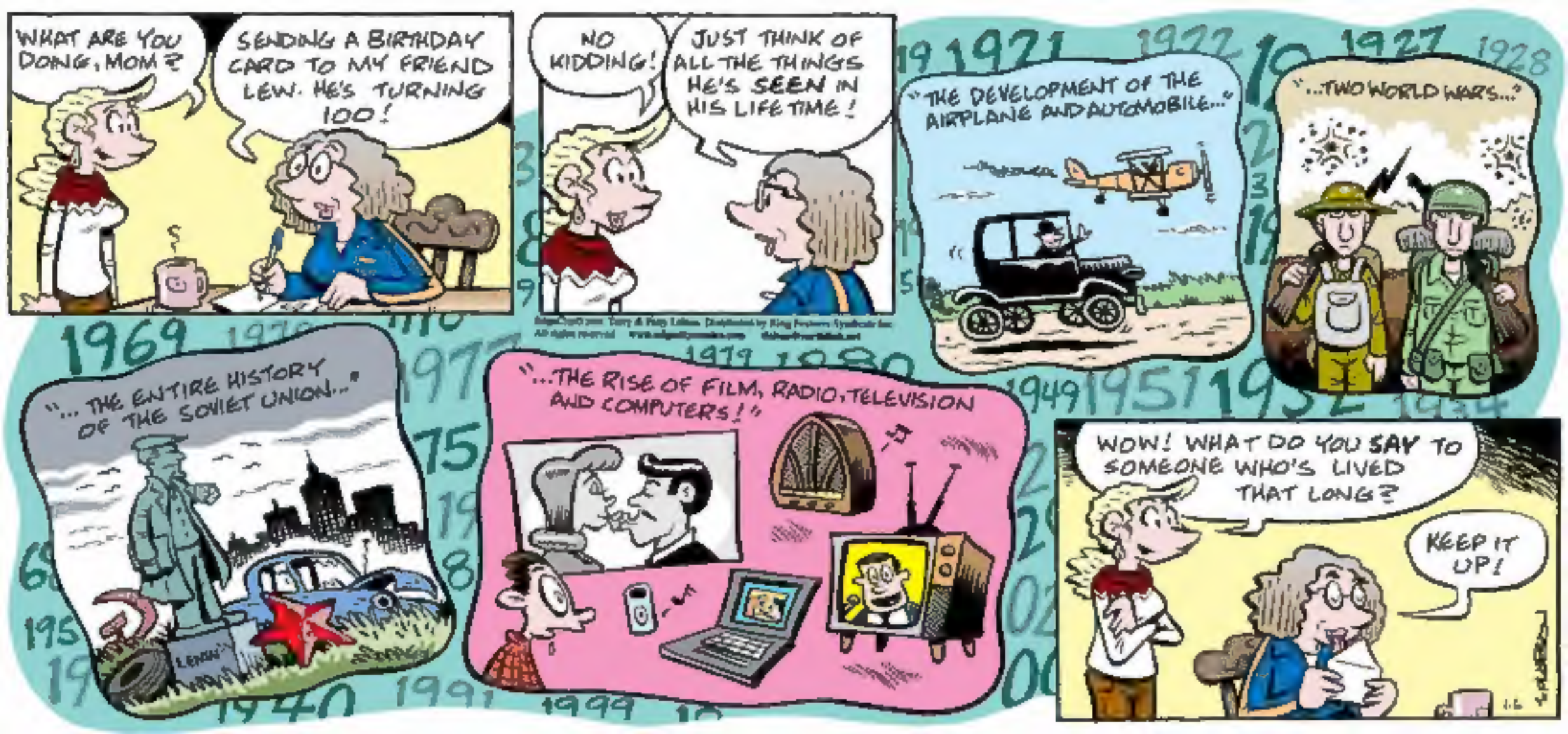
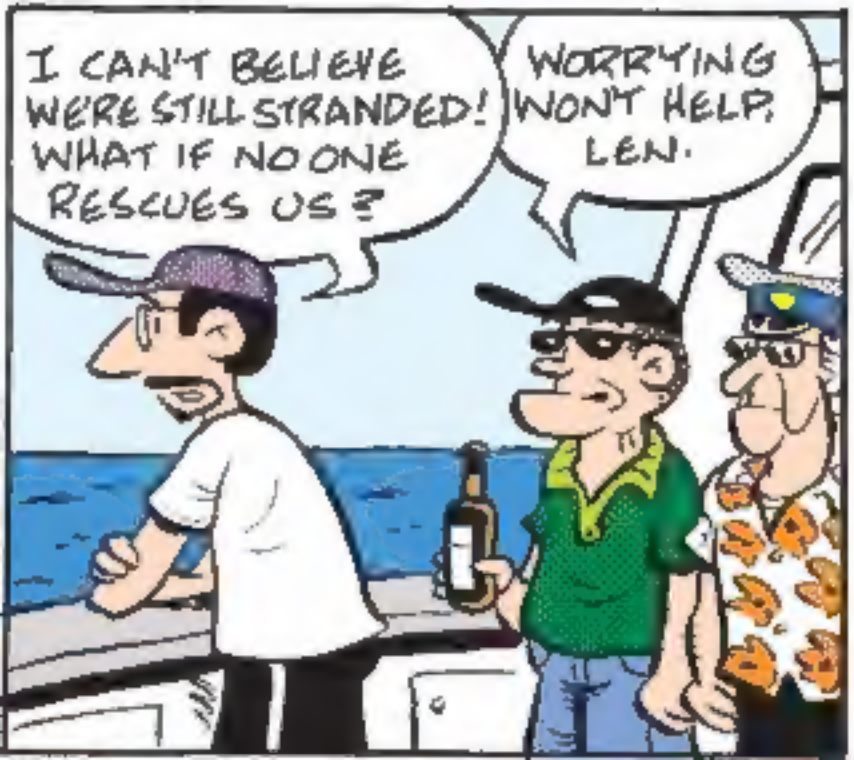

WHAT ARE YOU DOING, MOM?
SENDING A BIRTHDAY CARD TO MY FRIEND LEW. HE'S TURNING 100!
NO KIDDING!
JUST THINK OF ALL THE THINGS HE'S SEEN IN HIS LIFE TIME!
"THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE AIRPLANE AND AUTOMOBILE..."
"...TWO WORLD WARS..."
"... THE ENTIRE HISTORY OF THE SOVIET UNION..."
"...THE RISE OF FILM, RADIO, TELEVISION AND COMPUTERS!"
WOW! WHAT DO YOU SAY TO SOMEONE WHO'S LIVED THAT LONG?
KEEP IT UP!



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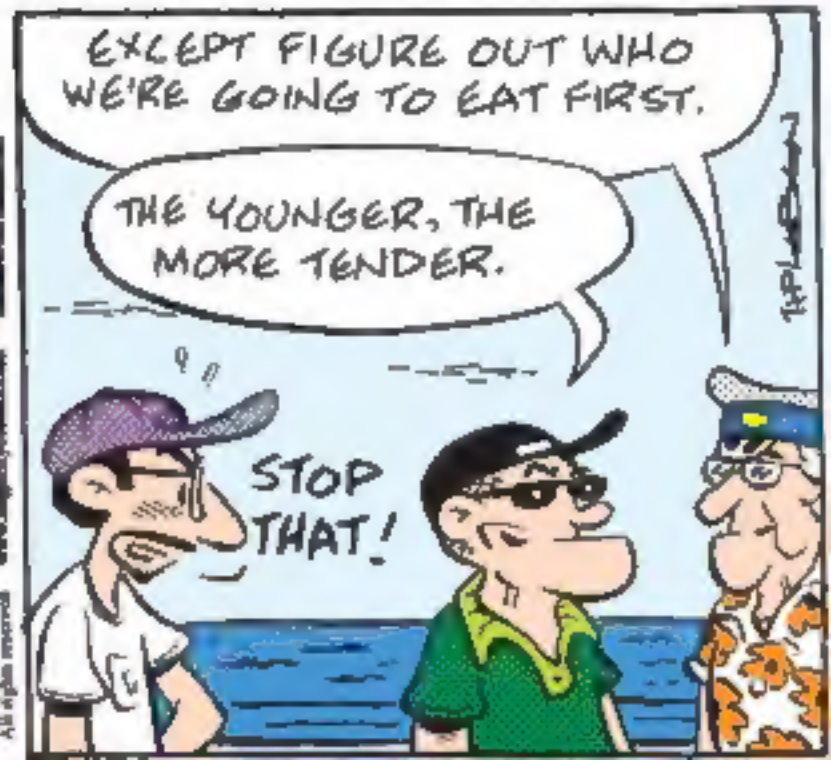

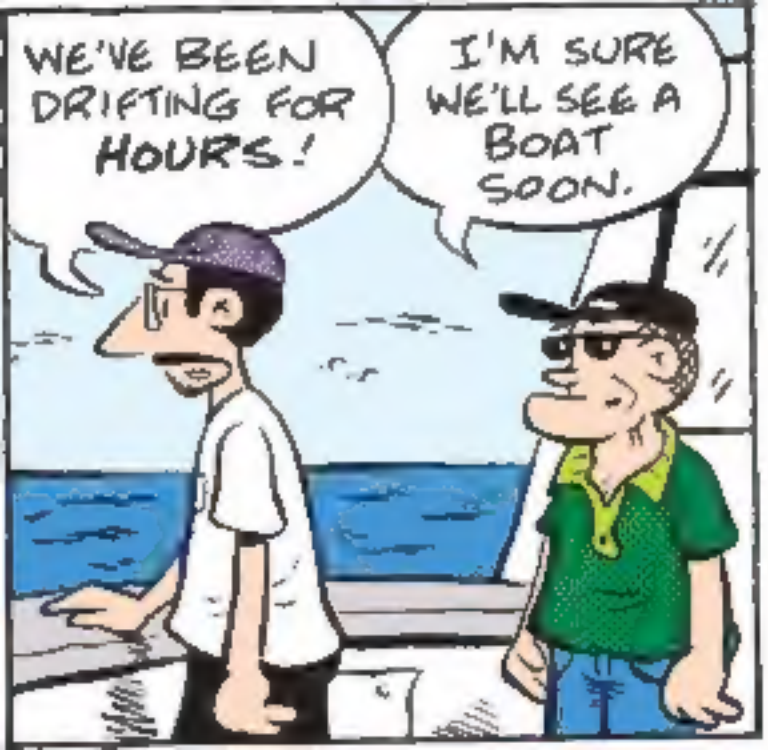

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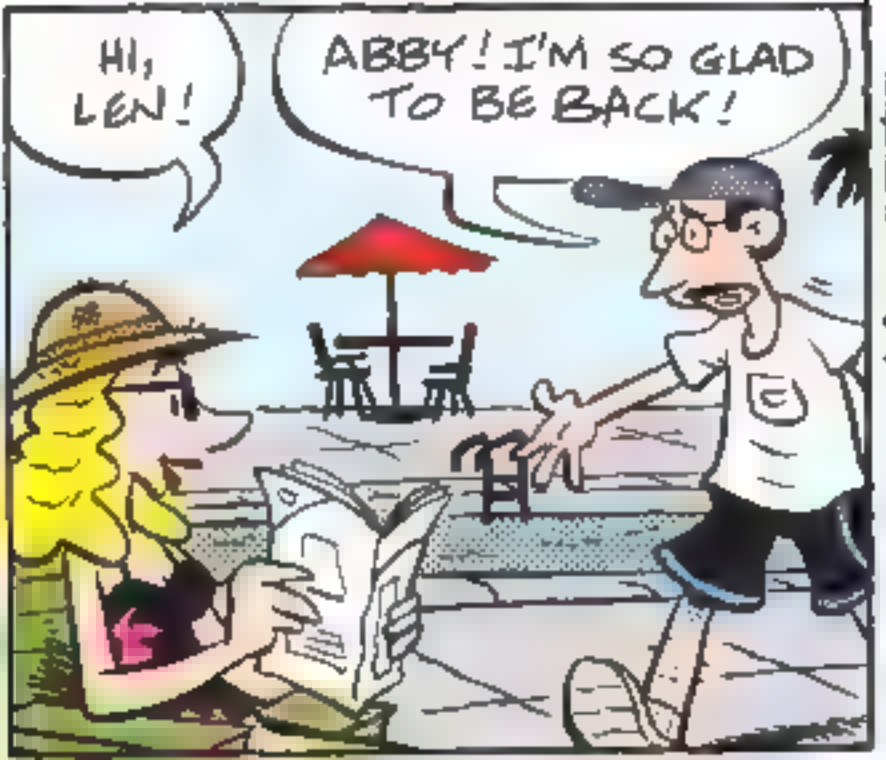
WE'VE BEEN DRIFTING FOR HOURS! IT'S GOING TO BE SUNSET SOON.
SOMEONE WILL COME LOOKING FOR US EVENTUALLY.
WELL, JUST IN CASE, I'M PUTTING A NOTE IN A BEER BOTTLE.
I ONLY HOPE SOMEONE SEES THIS BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!
THIS IS THE COAST GUARD! DUMPING IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED!
HEY! IT WORKED!

I'M WITH THE COAST GUARD. I SAW YOU THROW TRASH OVER-BOARD!
THAT WASN'T WHAT I WAS DOING!
WE'VE BEEN STRANDED WITHOUT POWER FOR HOURS! I THREW A MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE HOPING WE'D BE RESCUED!
WELL, THEN -- IT'S A GOOD THING I SPOTTED YOU!
SOUNDS LIKE IT COULD'VE BEEN A LOT WORSE THAN A $200 FINE!



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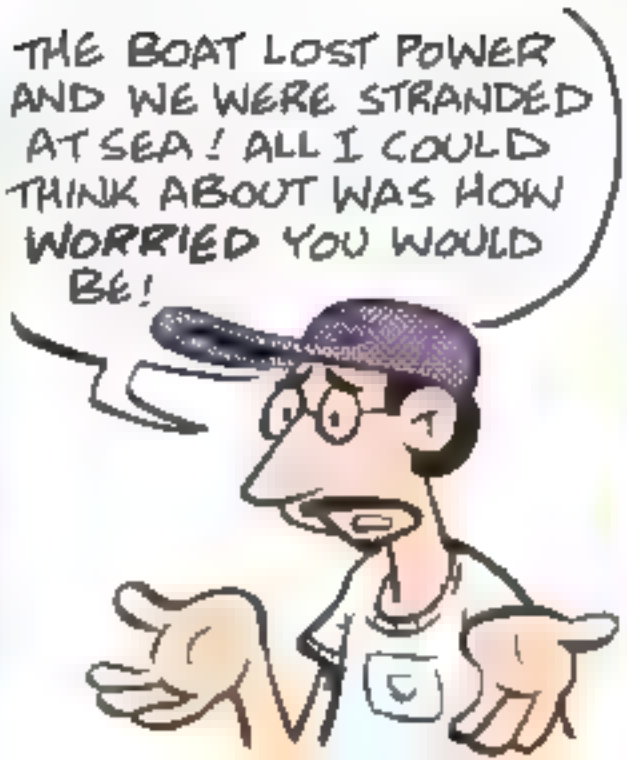
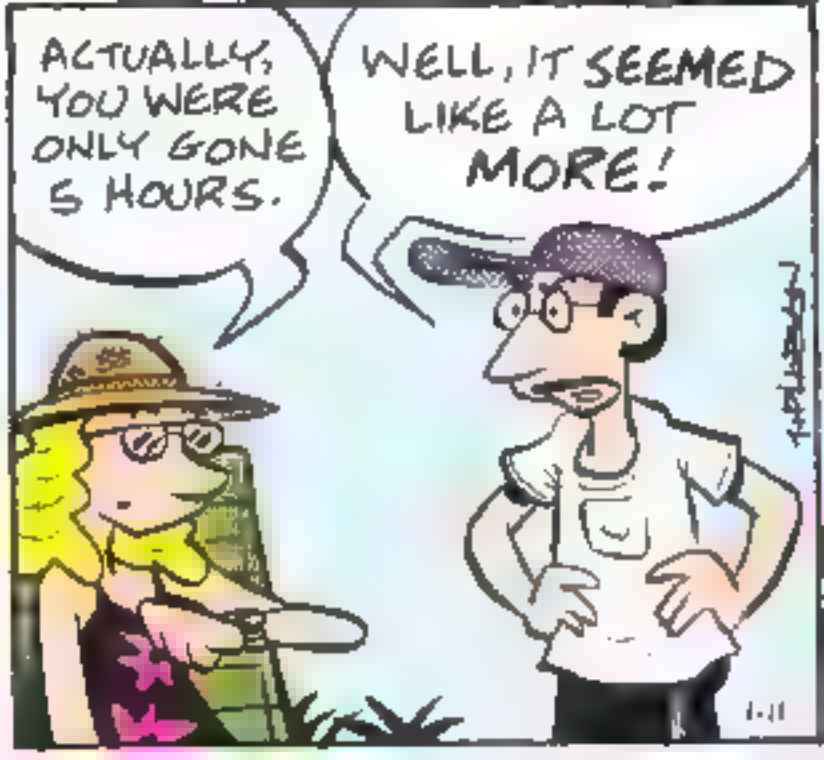
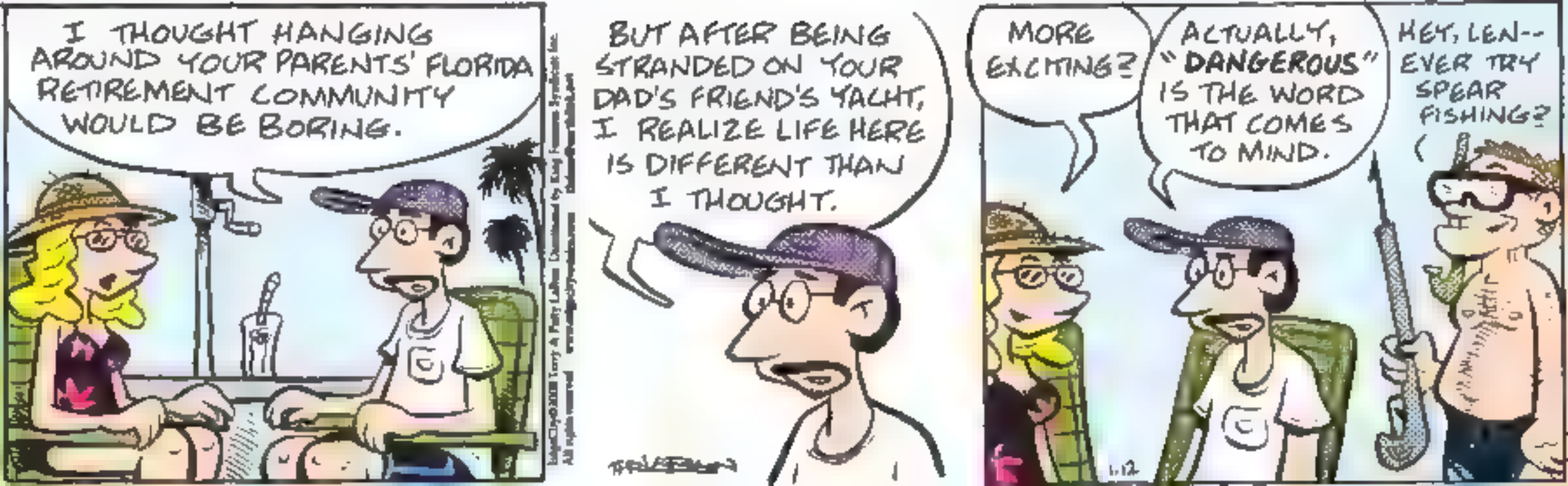




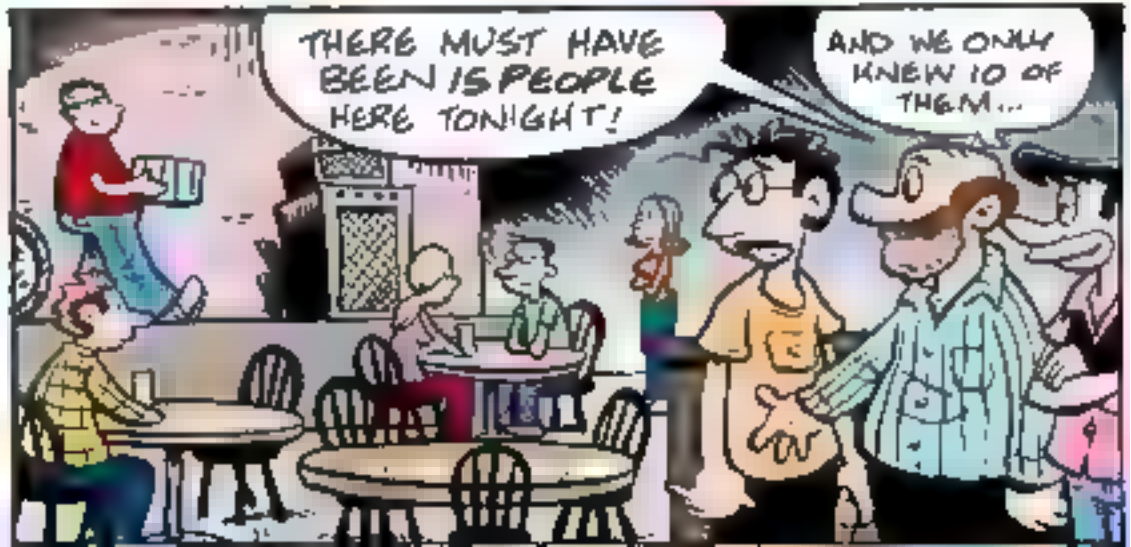

I THOUGHT HANGING AROUND YOUR PARENTS' FLORIDA RETIREMENT COMMUNITY WOULD BE BORING.
BUT AFTER BEING STRANDED ON YOUR DAD'S FRIEND'S YACHT, I REALIZE LIFE HERE IS DIFFERENT THAN I THOUGHT.
MORE EXCITING?
ACTUALLY, "DANGEROUS" IS THE WORD THAT COMES TO MIND.
HEY, LEN-- EVER TRY SPEAR FISHING?

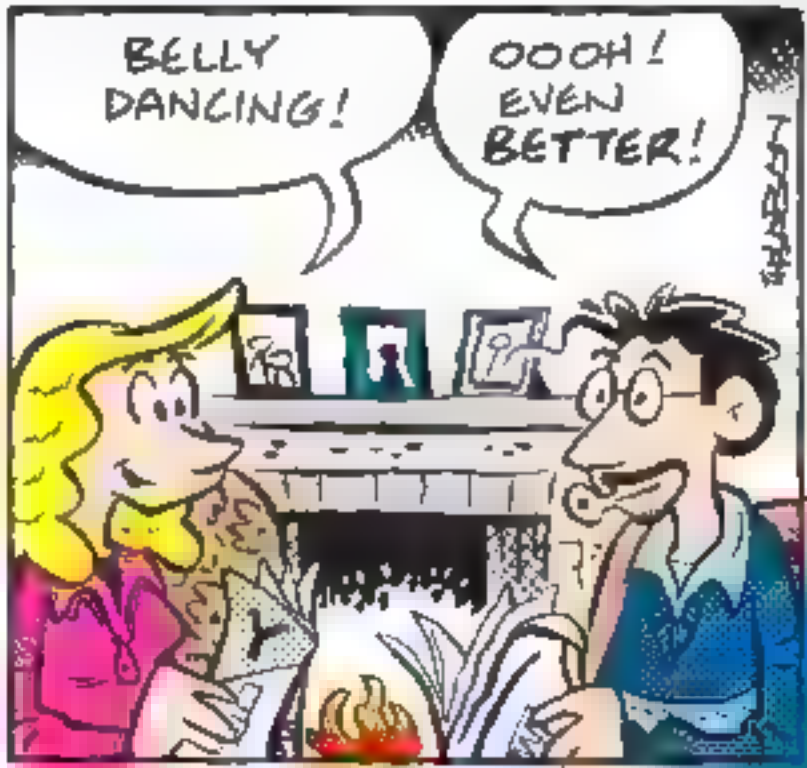
THAT'S IT, EVERYONE! GOOD NIGHT!
YAY!
CLAP! CLAP!
MIDLIFE CRISIS

THANKS FOR HAVING US PLAY AT YOUR BAR, BERT!
THANK YOU, LEN!

SEEMS LIKE PEOPLE ENJOYED IT.
ARE YOU KIDDING?

YOU GUYS WERE A HUGE HIT! WE HARDLY EVER GET THIS KIND OF CROWD!


THERE MUST HAVE BEEN 15 PEOPLE HERE TONIGHT!
AND WE ONLY KNEW 10 OF THEM...



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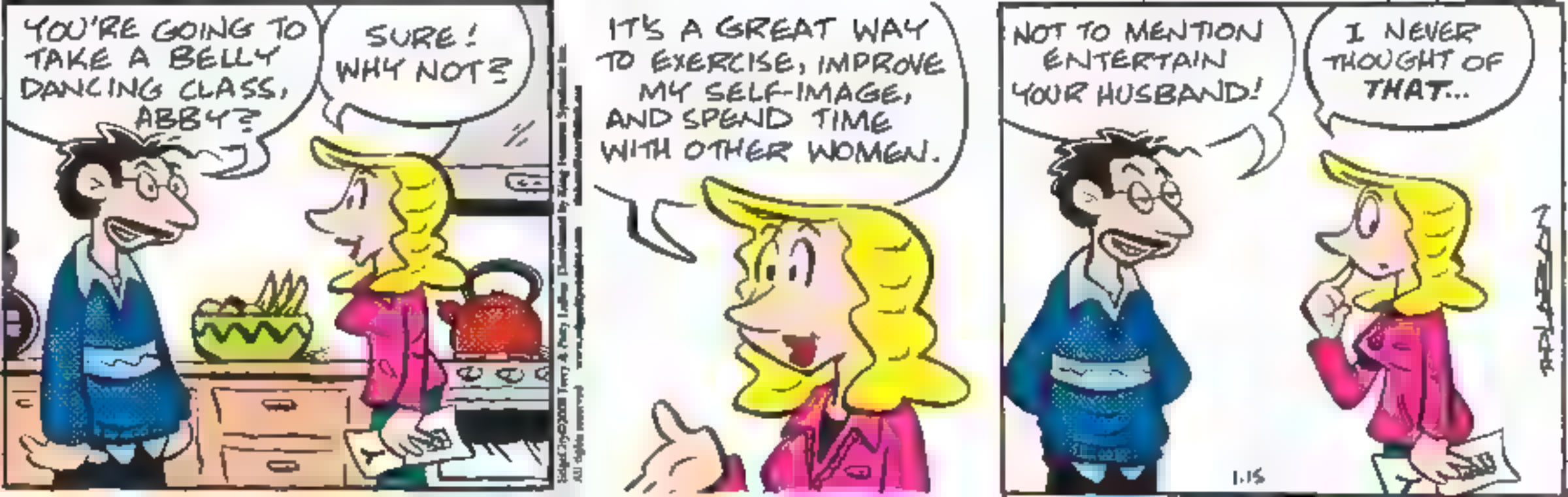
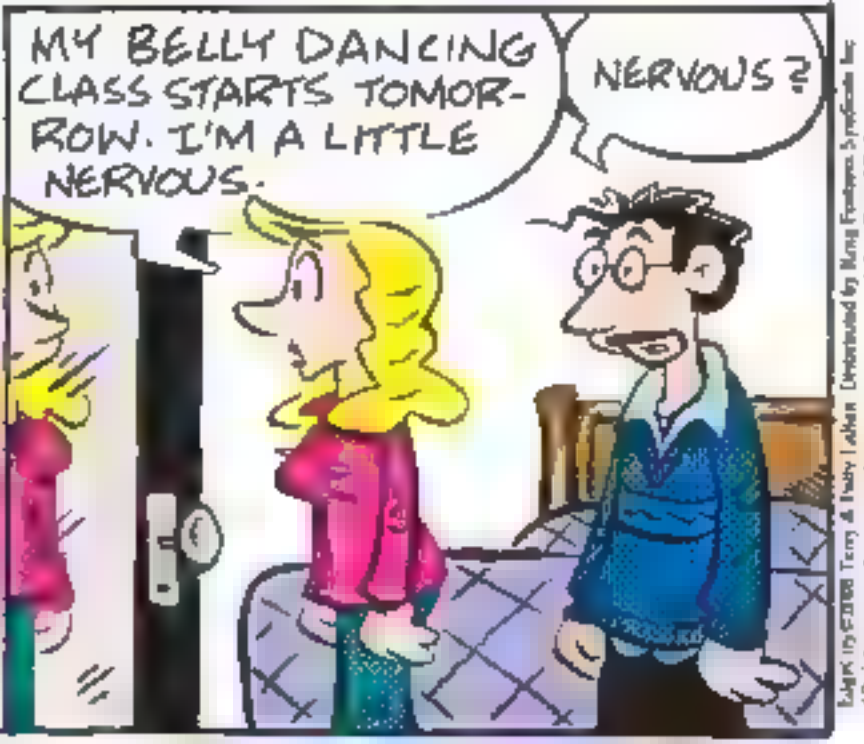

YOU'RE GOING TO TAKE A BELLY DANCING CLASS, ABBY?
SURE! WHY NOT?
IT'S A GREAT WAY TO EXERCISE, IMPROVE MY SELF-IMAGE, AND SPEND TIME WITH OTHER WOMEN.
NOT TO MENTION ENTERTAIN YOUR HUSBAND!
I NEVER THOUGHT OF THAT...
1.15



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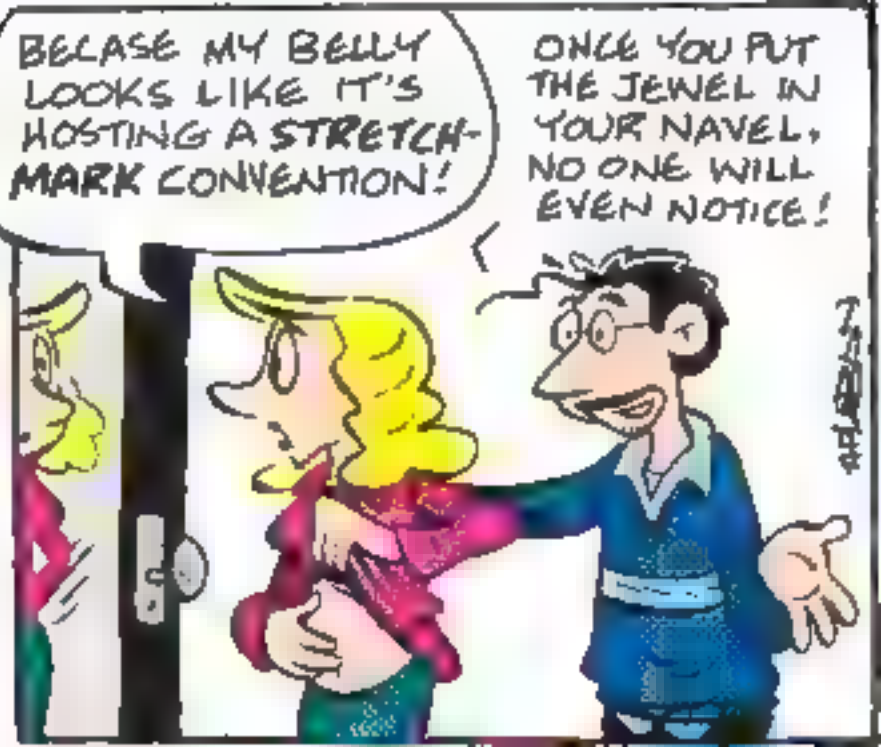
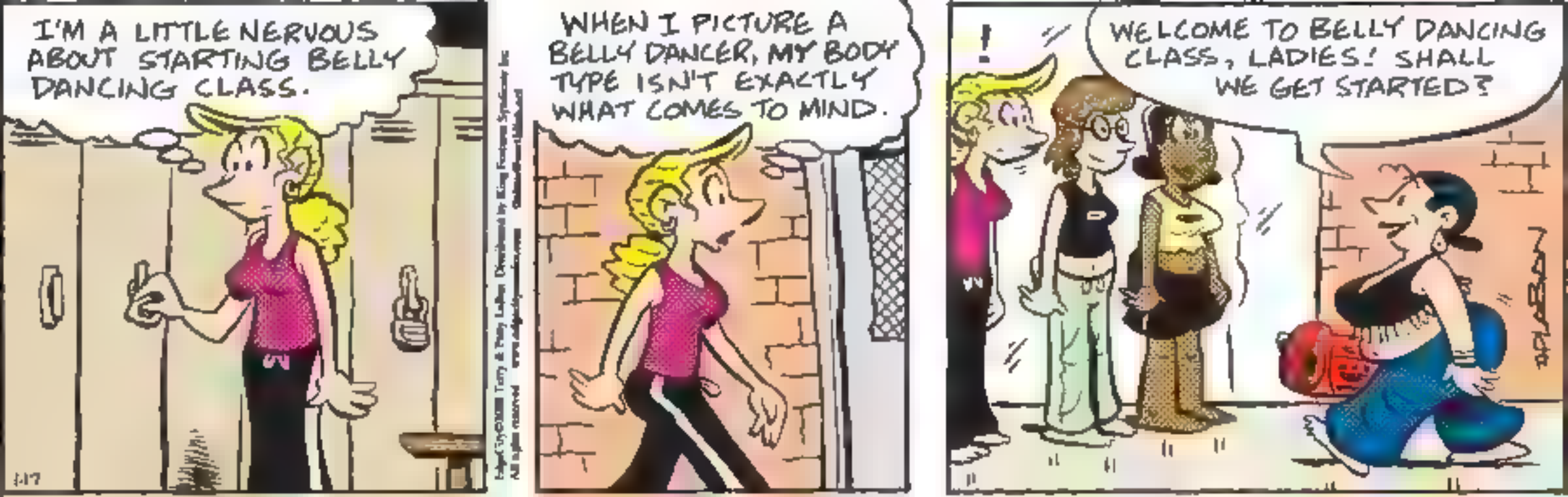
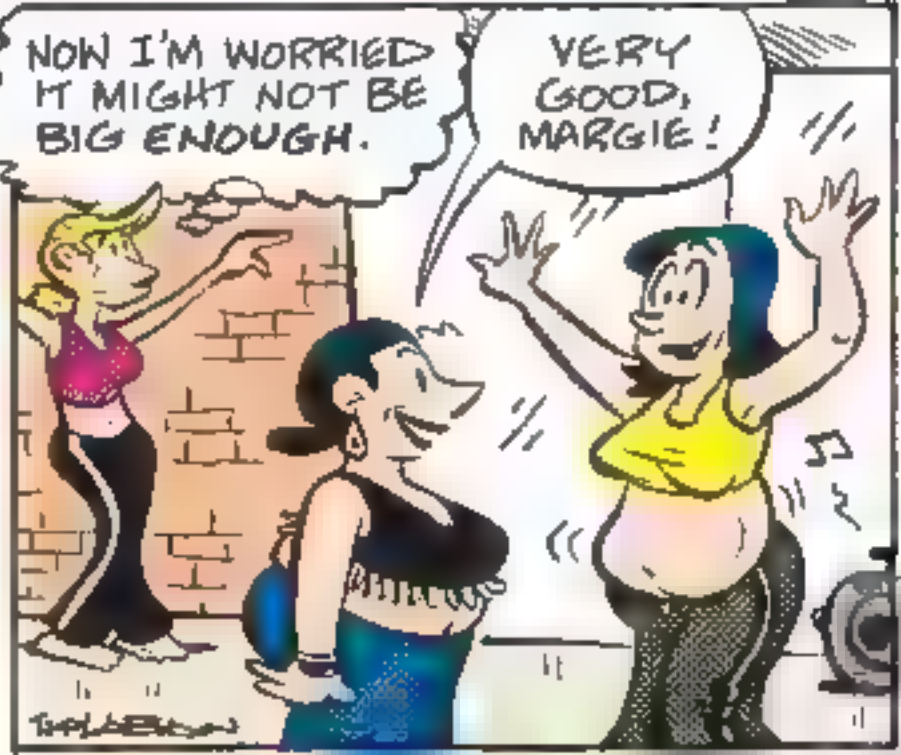
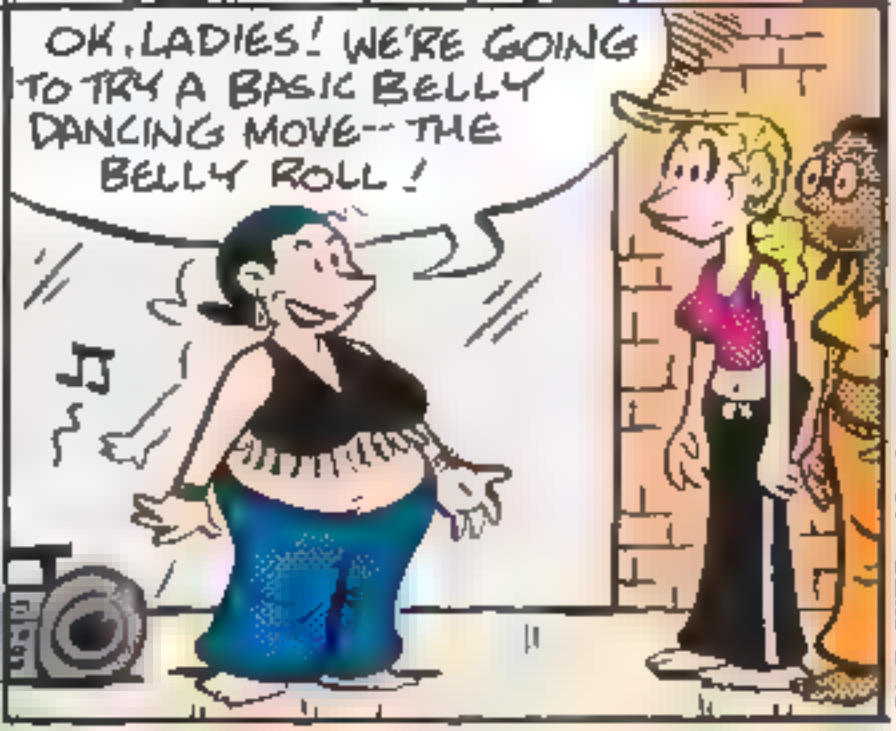



I'M A LITTLE NERVOUS ABOUT STARTING BELLY DANCING CLASS.
WHEN I PICTURE A BELLY DANCER, MY BODY TYPE ISN'T EXACTLY WHAT COMES TO MIND.
!
WELCOME TO BELLY DANCING CLASS, LADIES! SHALL WE GET STARTED?

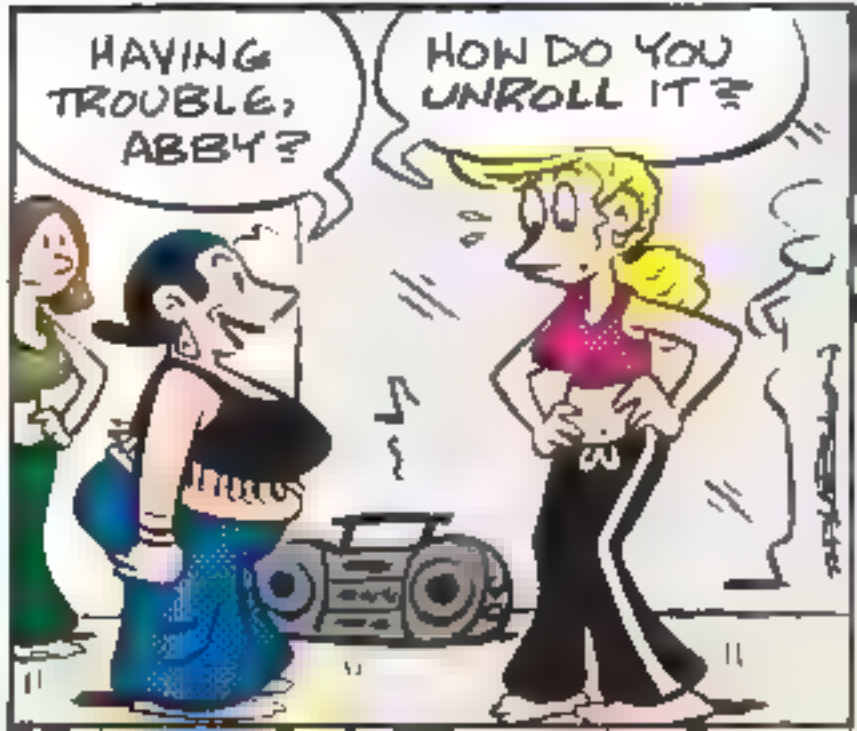
YOU REALLY HAVE TO DEAL WITH BODY IMAGE ISSUES WHEN YOU LEARN BELLY DANCING.

BEFORE I CAME IN HERE, I WORRIED MY BELLY MIGHT BE TOO BIG TO SHAKE AROUND IN PUBLIC.


NOW I'M WORRIED IT MIGHT NOT BE BIG ENOUGH.
VERY GOOD, MARGIE!

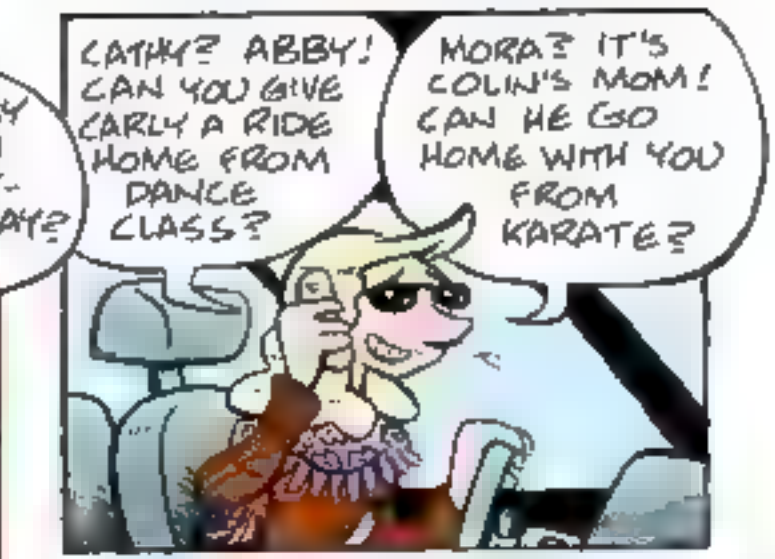

OK, LADIES! WE'RE GOING TO TRY A BASIC BELLY DANCING MOVE-- THE BELLY ROLL!

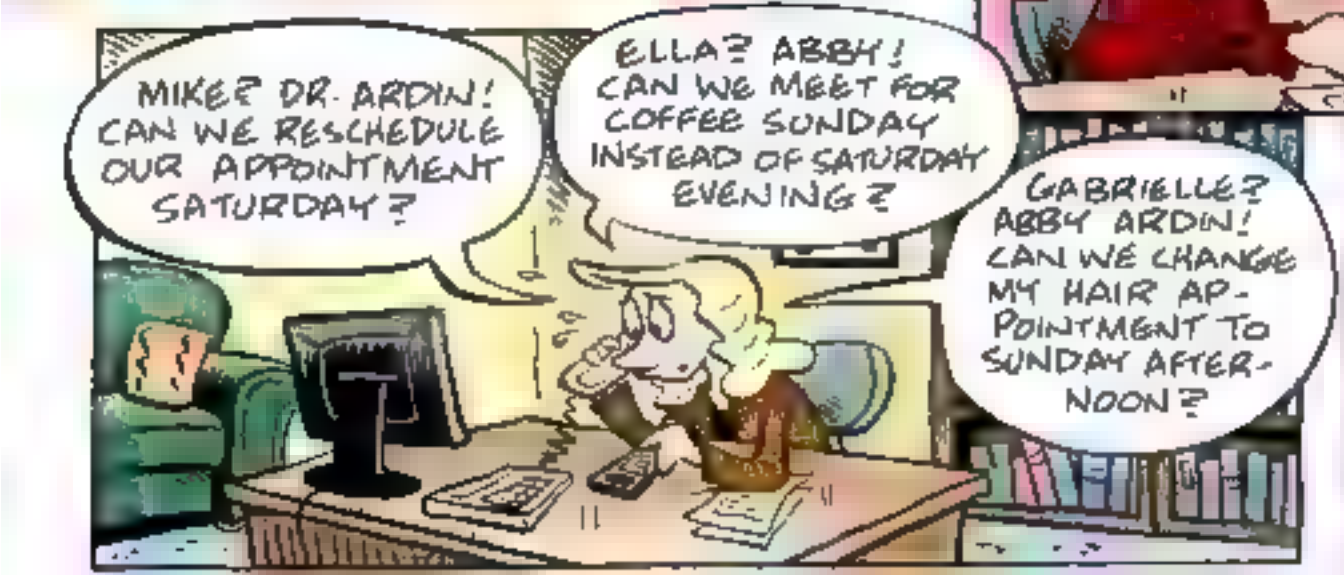
SUCK IN YOUR STOMACH AS MUCH AS YOU CAN AND TRY TO ROLL IT TO THE SIDE.


HAVING TROUBLE, ABBY?
HOW DO YOU UNROLL IT?

HEY, ABBY--WHAT DO YOU SAY WE GO OUT SATURDAY NIGHT? JUST YOU AND ME?
THAT WOULD BE NICE.

SALLY? ABBY ARDIN! CAN YOU BABYSIT SATURDAY? YOU HAVE TO WORK? OK...
SUSAN? ABBY ARDIN! CAN YOU BABY-SIT SATURDAY?


CATHY? ABBY! CAN YOU GIVE CARLY A RIDE HOME FROM DANCE CLASS?
MORA? IT'S COLIN'S MOM! CAN HE GO HOME WITH YOU FROM KARATE?


MIKE? DR. ARDIN! CAN WE RESCHEDULE OUR APPOINTMENT SATURDAY?
ELLA? ABBY! CAN WE MEET FOR COFFEE SUNDAY INSTEAD OF SATURDAY EVENING?
GABRIELLE? ABBY ARDIN! CAN WE CHANGE MY HAIR AP-POINTMENT TO SUNDAY AFTER-NOON?

THIS IS SO RELAXING. WHY DON'T WE DO IT MORE?

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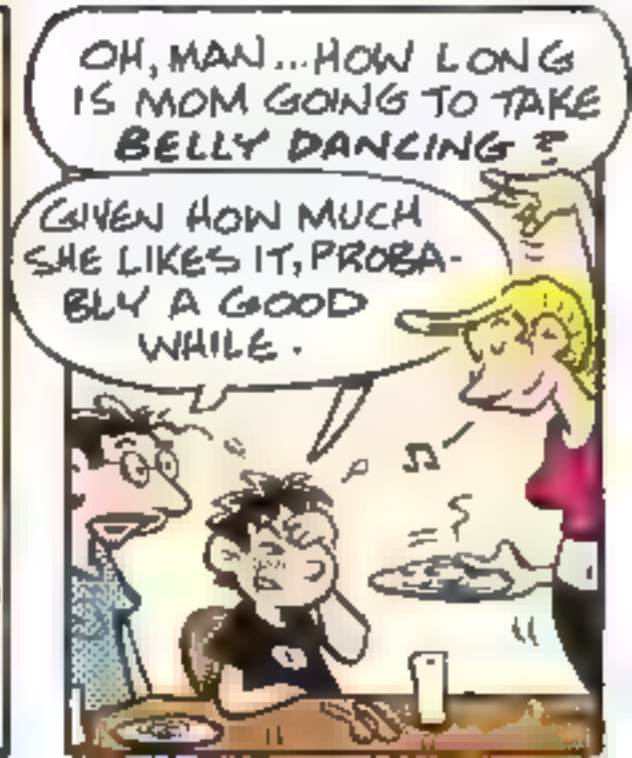

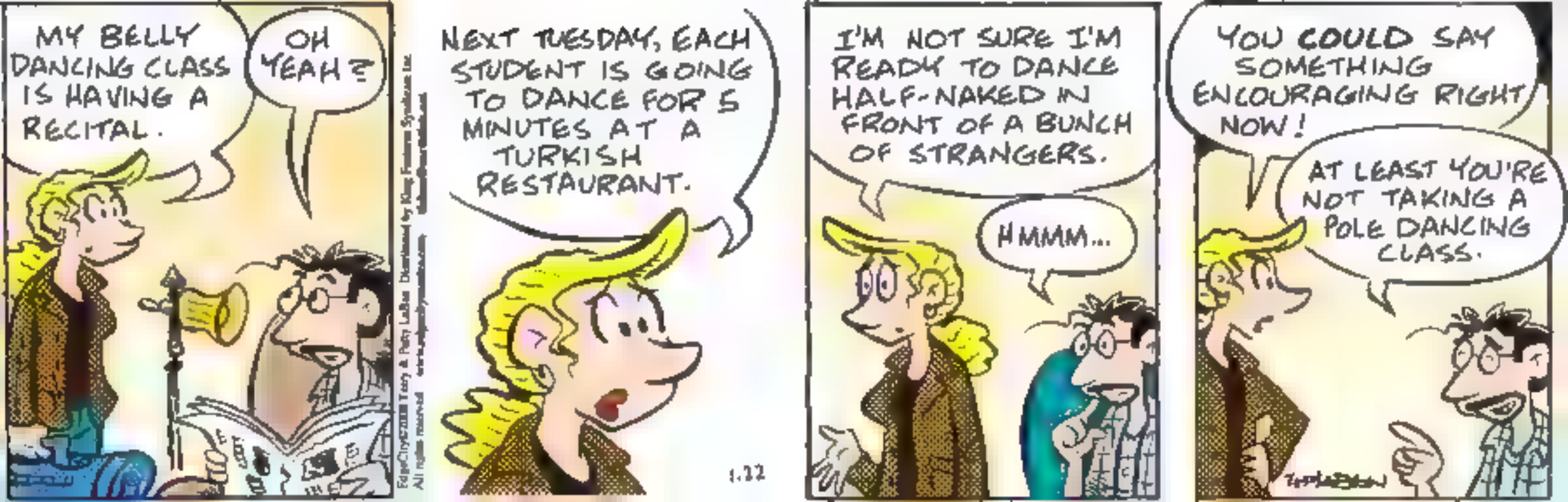

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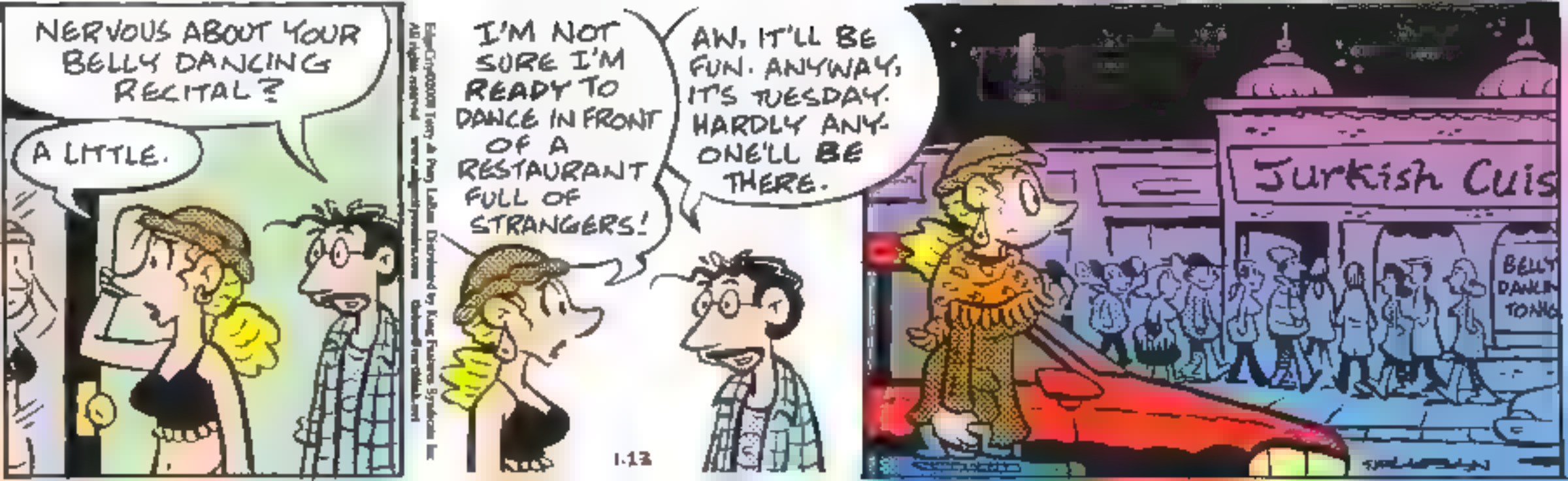

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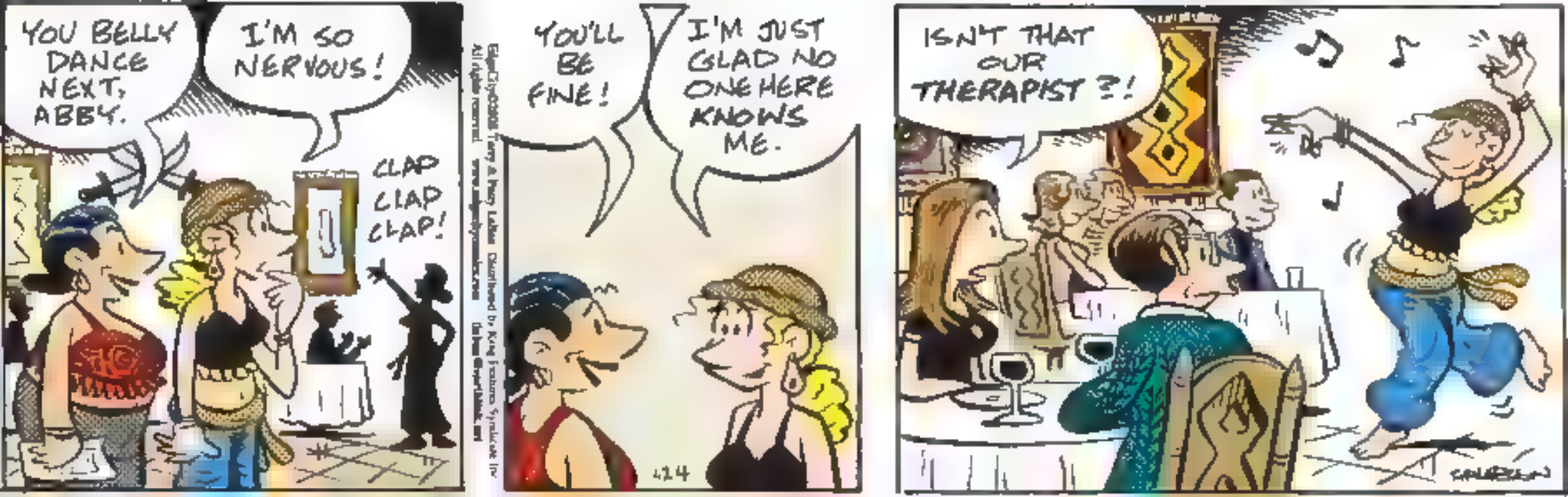
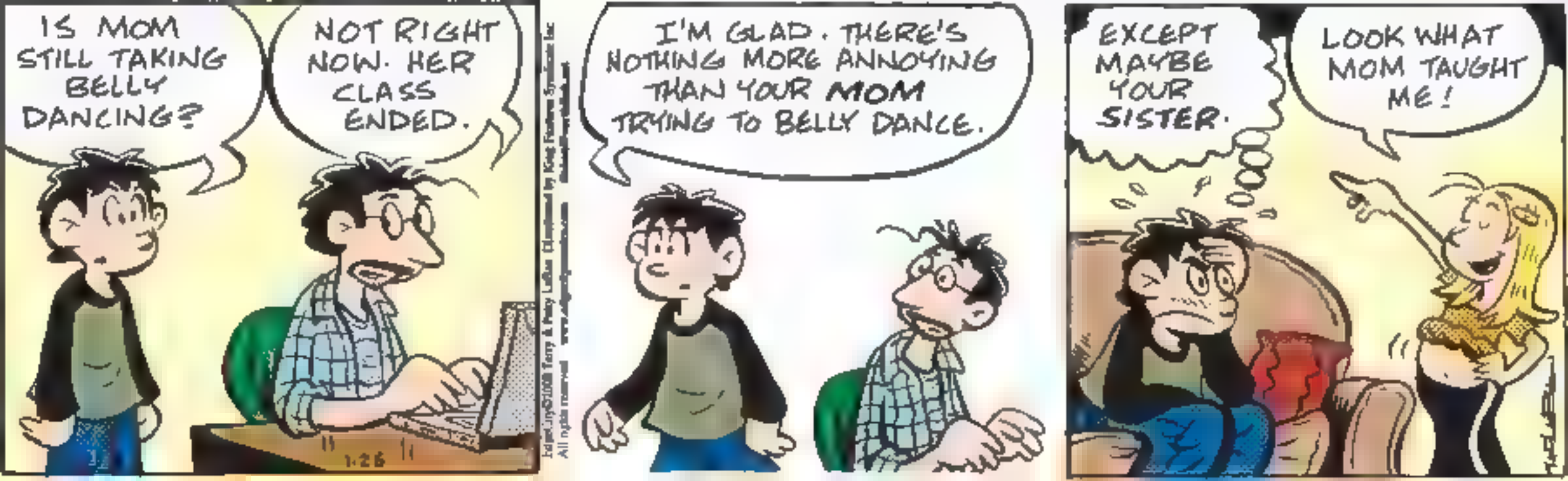

YOU BELLY DANCE NEXT, ABBY.
I'M SO NERVOUS!
CLAP CLAP CLAP!
YOU'LL BE FINE!
I'M JUST GLAD NO ONE HERE KNOWS ME.
424
ISN'T THAT OUR THERAPIST?!

GREAT JOB, ABBY!
I DID IT! I BELLY DANCED IN PUBLIC!
CLAP CLAP
CLAP CLAP

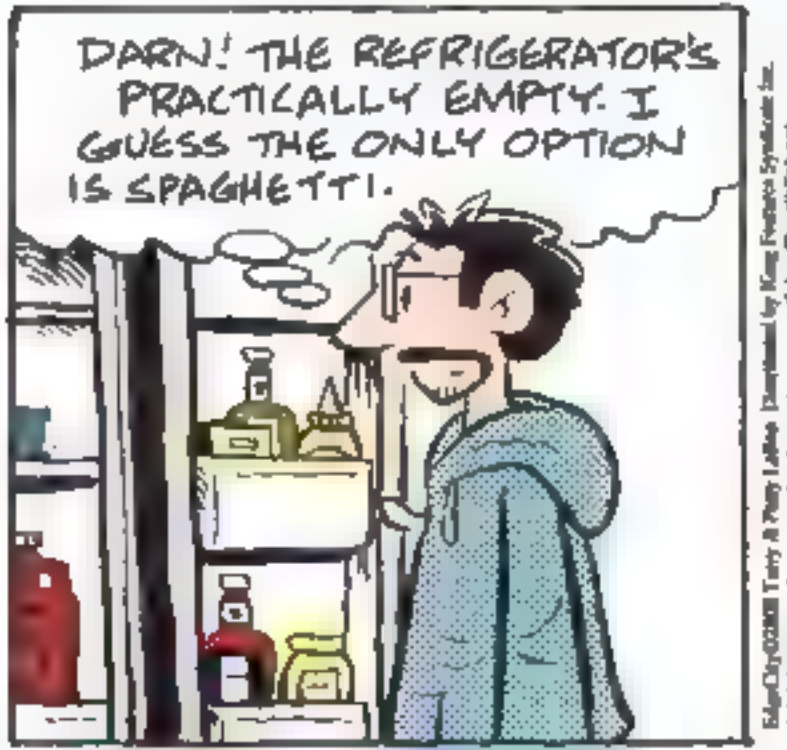
HOW DID IT FEEL?
I WAS NERVOUS AT FIRST. BUT ALL THAT APPLAUSE IS REALLY A CONFIDENCE-BUILDER.
1-25

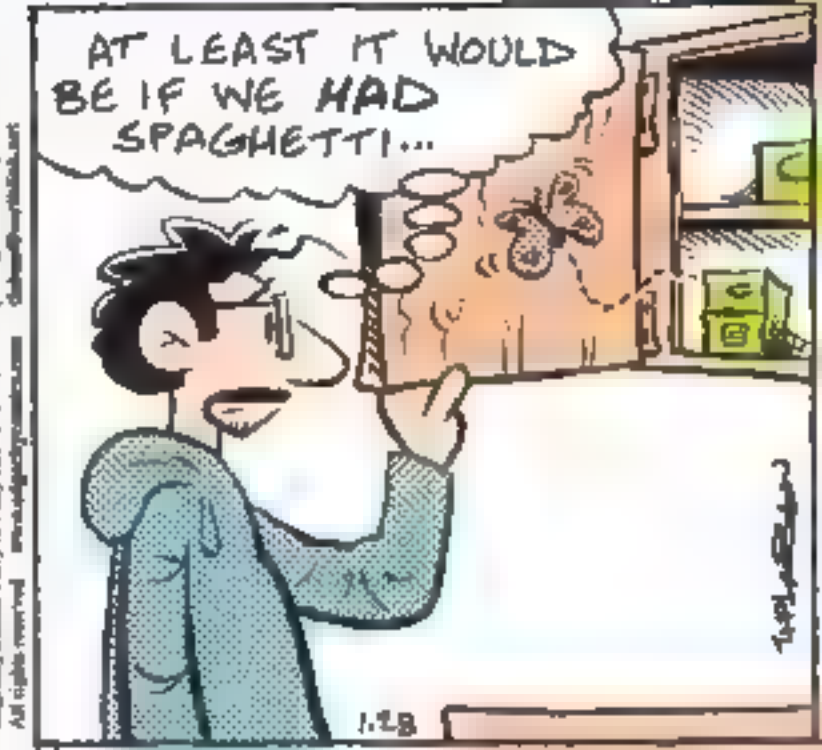
PLUS, I HAD A TOTAL OF $10 STUCK IN MY SASH!
I THINK YOU'RE READY FOR INTERMEDIATE CLASS.

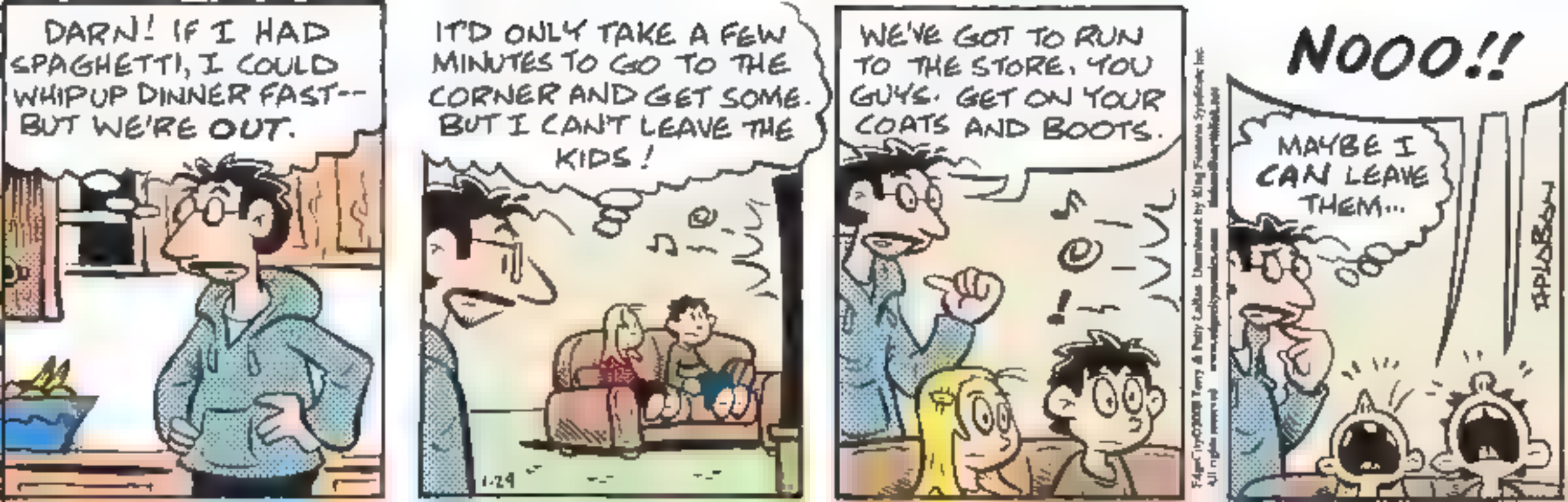

IS MOM STILL TAKING BELLY DANCING?
NOT RIGHT NOW. HER CLASS ENDED.
I'M GLAD. THERE'S NOTHING MORE ANNOYING THAN YOUR MOM TRYING TO BELLY DANCE.
EXCEPT MAYBE YOUR SISTER.
LOOK WHAT MOM TAUGHT ME!

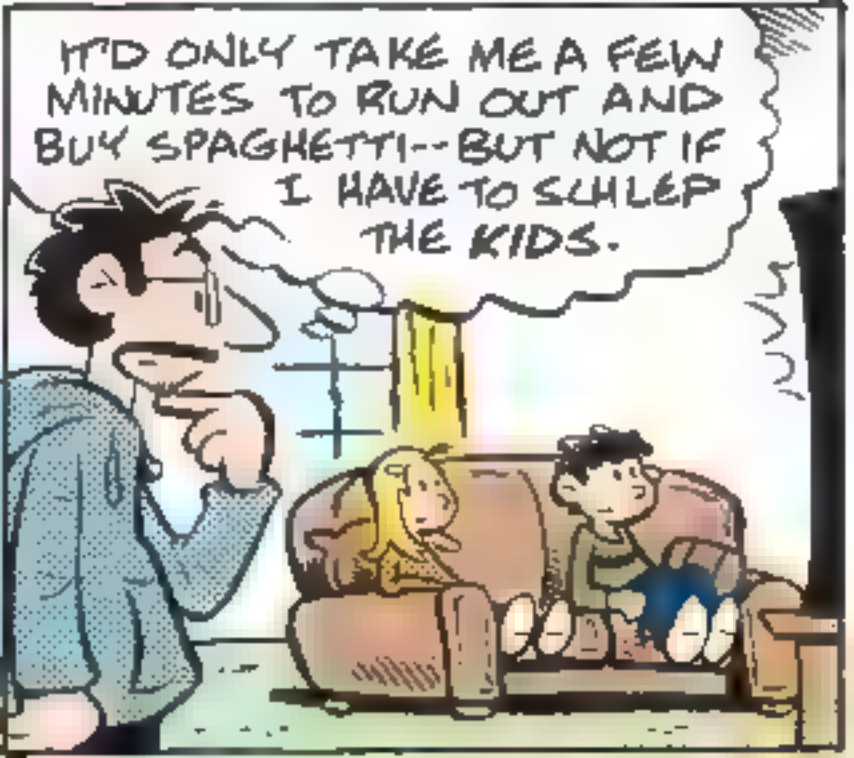
LATELY I'VE BEEN GOOGLING A LOT OF PEOPLE I KNEW IN HIGH SCHOOL.
ONE OF MY OLD BOYFRIENDS IS A DOT COM MILLIONAIRE... A GIRL I RODE THE BUS WITH WROTE A NOVEL.
ONE GUY FROM MY CLASS WRITES A BLOG IN UPPER VOLTA... ANOTHER OWNS A COMPANY THAT SELLS EYES FOR DOLLS!
IT'S AMAZING HOW EASY IT IS TO TRACK PEOPLE DOWN THESE DAYS!
DO YOU EVER GET IN TOUCH WITH ANYONE?
TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, I HAVEN'T REALLY WANTED TO.
I'D HATE FOR THEM TO THINK I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING BETTER TO DO THAN SIT AROUND AND GOOGLE PEOPLE I KNEW IN HIGH SCHOOL!

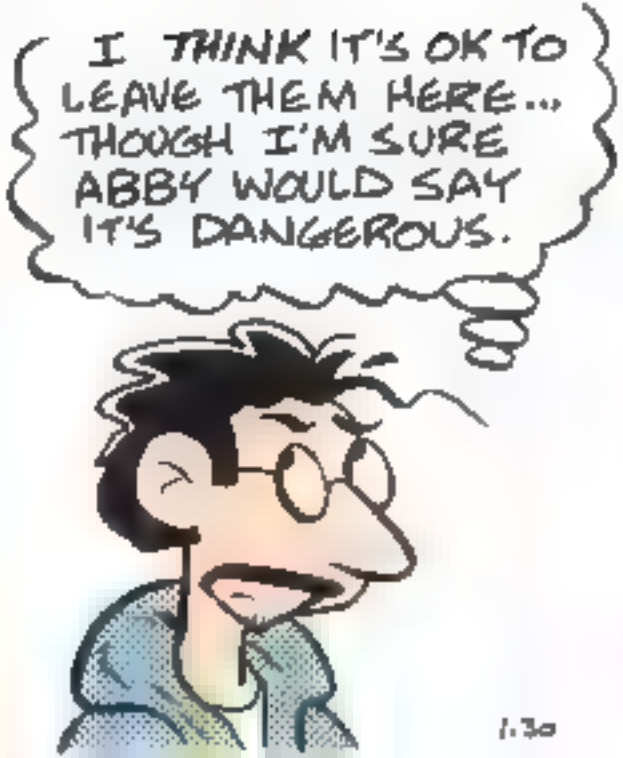
I'M SUPPOSED TO PLAY BASKETBALL IN AN HOUR. I'D BETTER MAKE SOMETHING SIMPLE FOR DINNER.

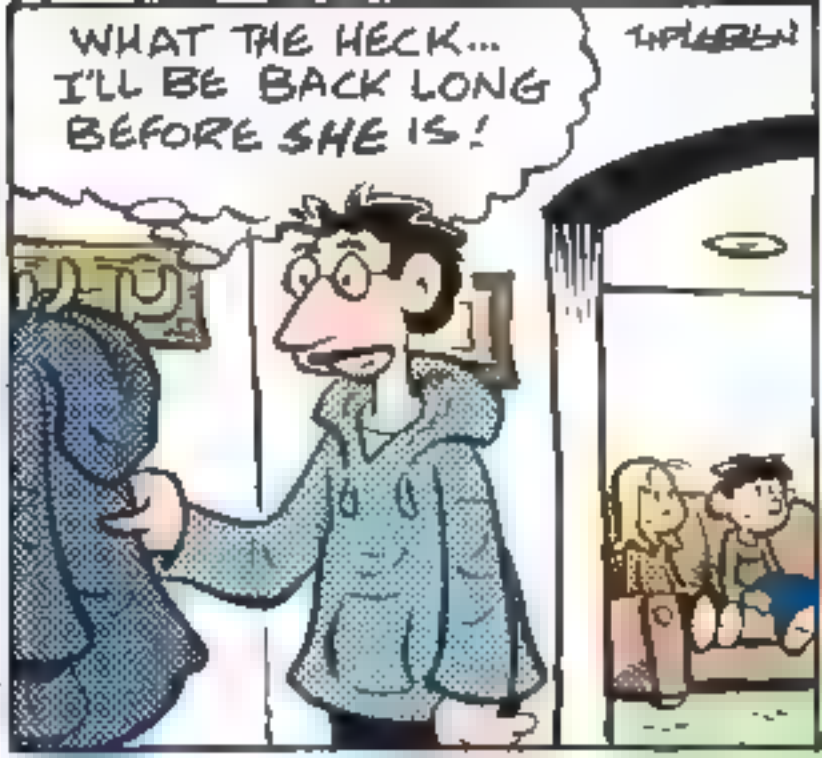

DARN! THE REFRIGERATOR'S PRACTICALLY EMPTY. I GUESS THE ONLY OPTION IS SPAGHETTI.

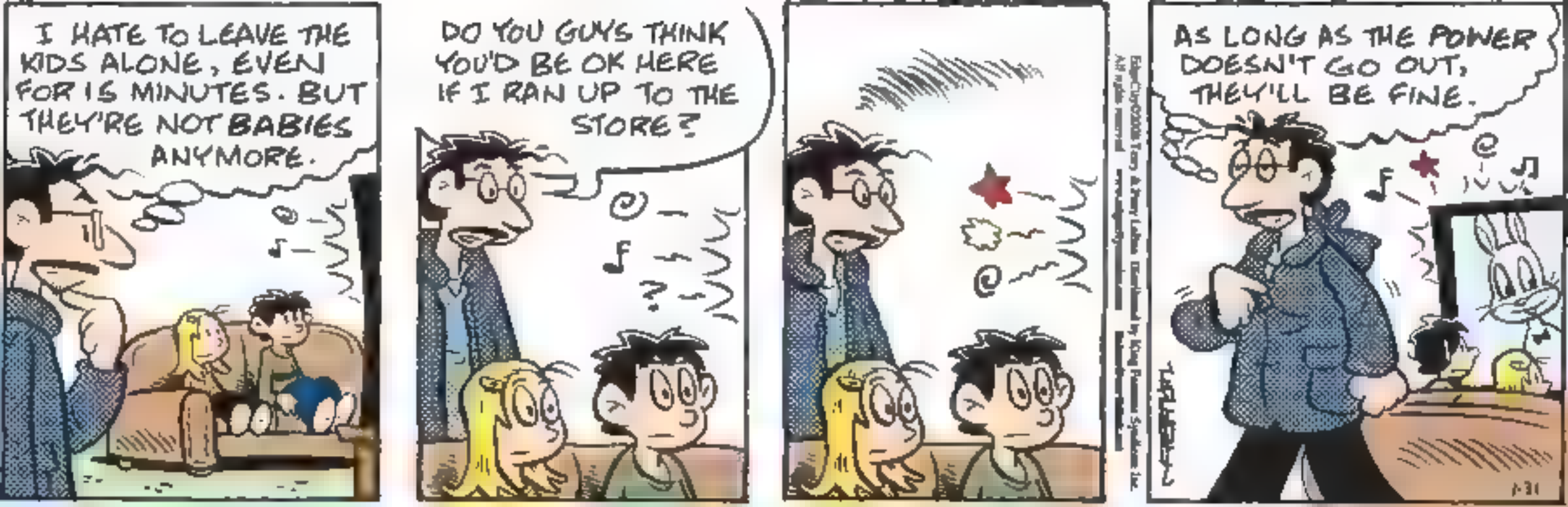

AT LEAST IT WOULD BE IF WE HAD SPAGHETTI...


DARN! IF I HAD SPAGHETTI, I COULD WHIP UP DINNER FAST-- BUT WE'RE OUT.
IT'D ONLY TAKE A FEW MINUTES TO GO TO THE CORNER AND GET SOME. BUT I CAN'T LEAVE THE KIDS!
1-24
WE'VE GOT TO RUN TO THE STORE, YOU GUYS. GET ON YOUR COATS AND BOOTS.
NOOO!!
MAYBE I CAN LEAVE THEM...
SPLOSH


IT'D ONLY TAKE ME A FEW MINUTES TO RUN OUT AND BUY SPAGHETTI--BUT NOT IF I HAVE TO SCHLEP THE KIDS.


I THINK IT'S OK TO LEAVE THEM HERE... THOUGH I'M SURE ABBY WOULD SAY IT'S DANGEROUS.
1.30

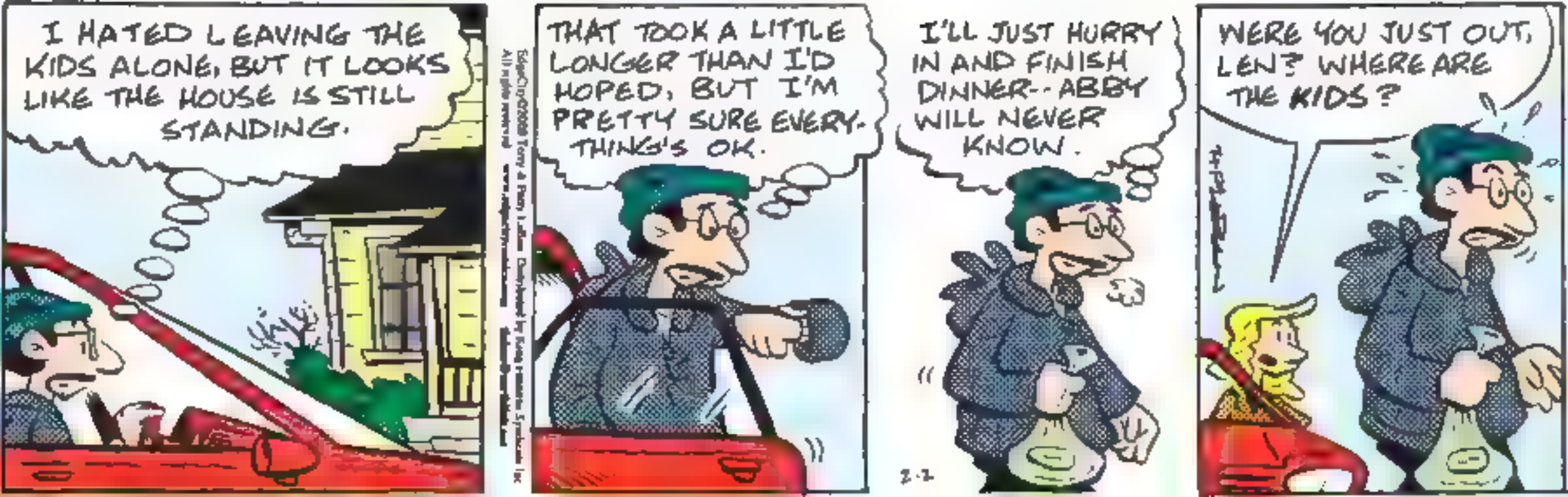

WHAT THE HECK... I'LL BE BACK LONG BEFORE SHE IS!


I HATE TO LEAVE THE KIDS ALONE, EVEN FOR 15 MINUTES. BUT THEY'RE NOT BABIES ANYMORE.
DO YOU GUYS THINK YOU'D BE OK HERE IF I RAN UP TO THE STORE?
AS LONG AS THE POWER DOESN'T GO OUT, THEY'LL BE FINE.

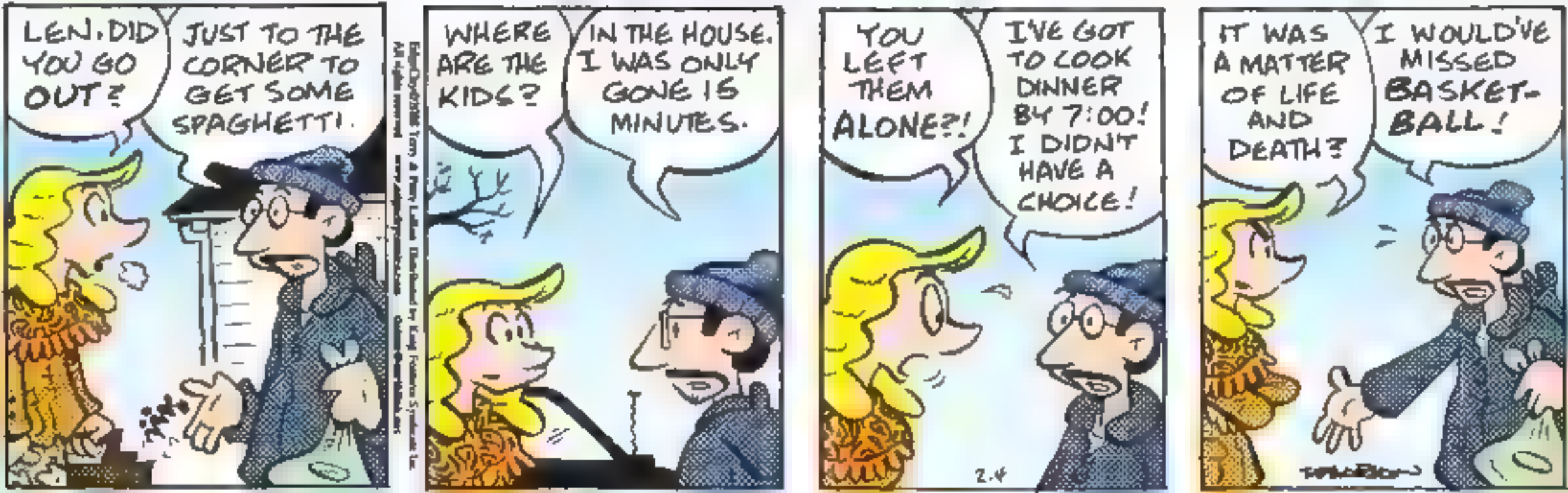
I HATED TO LEAVE THE KIDS ALONE, BUT I NEVER COULD HAVE GONE TO THE STORE THIS FAST IF I'D BROUGHT THEM.

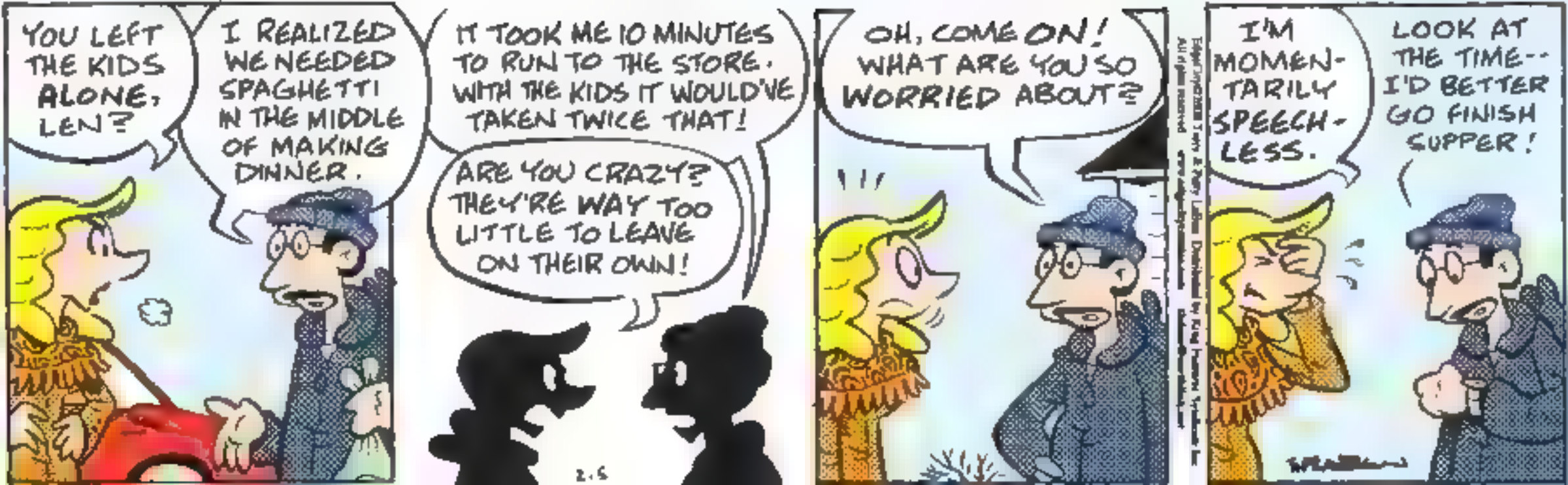
THEY'LL BE OK--I'LL BE HOME IN ANOTHER FEW MINUTES.

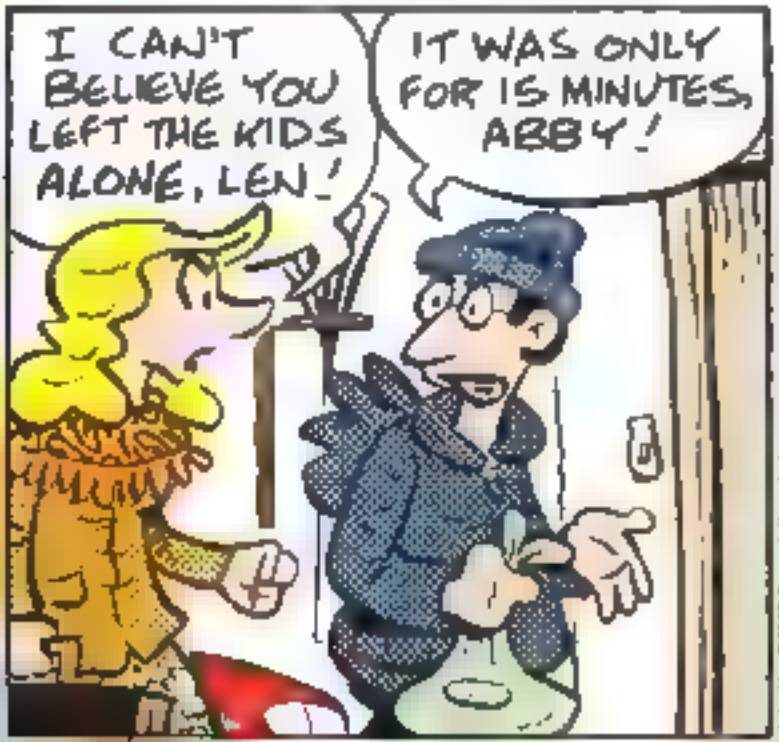
PRICE CHECK!
4
3
2


I HATED LEAVING THE KIDS ALONE, BUT IT LOOKS LIKE THE HOUSE IS STILL STANDING.
THAT TOOK A LITTLE LONGER THAN I'D HOPED, BUT I'M PRETTY SURE EVERYTHING'S OK.
I'LL JUST HURRY IN AND FINISH DINNER--ABBY WILL NEVER KNOW.
WERE YOU JUST OUT, LEN? WHERE ARE THE KIDS?

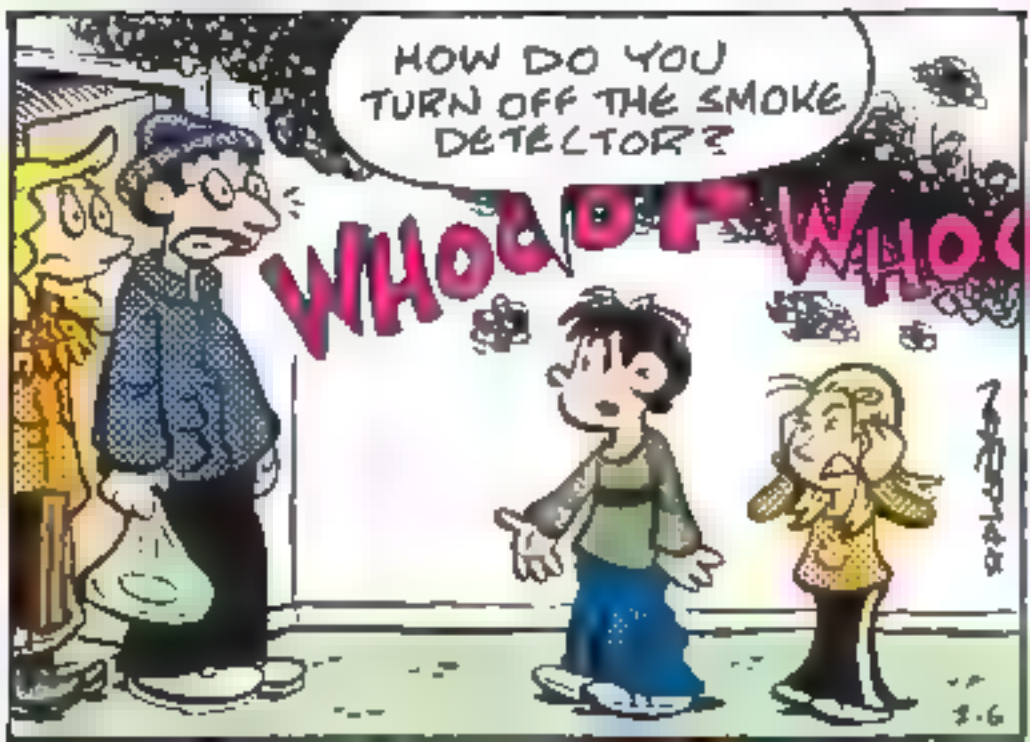
WITH ALL THIS AIRPORT SECURITY, WHY DO I STILL FEEL SO VULNERABLE?
GRR!

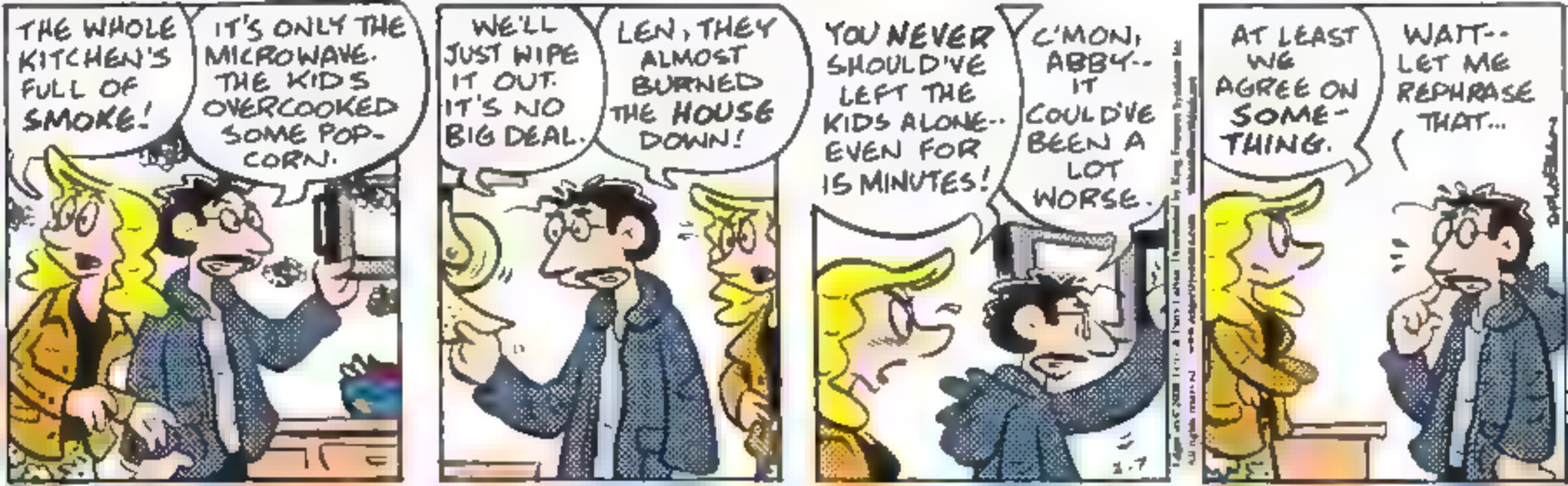

LEN, DID YOU GO OUT?
JUST TO THE CORNER TO GET SOME SPAGHETTI.
WHERE ARE THE KIDS?
IN THE HOUSE. I WAS ONLY GONE 15 MINUTES.
YOU LEFT THEM ALONE?!
I'VE GOT TO COOK DINNER BY 7:00! I DIDN'T HAVE A CHOICE!
2-4
IT WAS A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH?
I WOULD'VE MISSED BASKET-BALL!

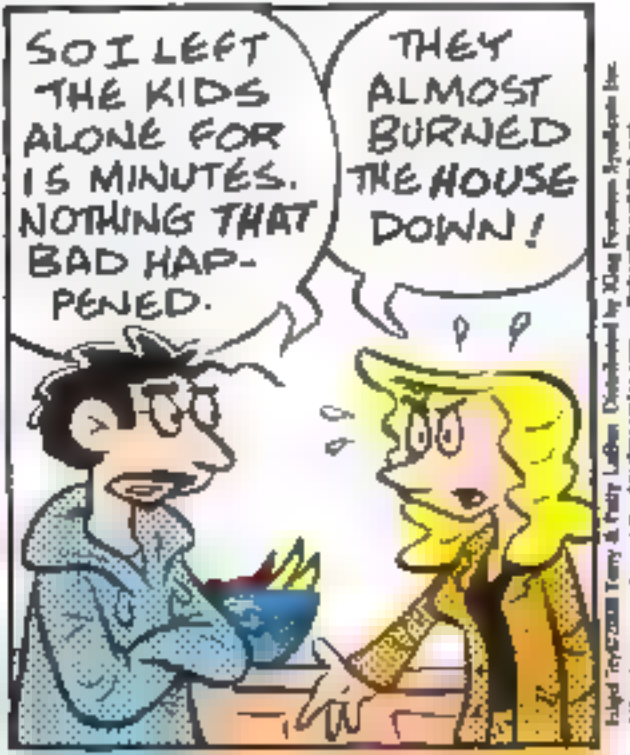

YOU LEFT THE KIDS ALONE, LEN?
I REALIZED WE NEEDED SPAGHETTI IN THE MIDDLE OF MAKING DINNER.
IT TOOK ME 10 MINUTES TO RUN TO THE STORE. WITH THE KIDS IT WOULD'VE TAKEN TWICE THAT!
ARE YOU CRAZY? THEY'RE WAY TOO LITTLE TO LEAVE ON THEIR OWN!
OH, COME ON! WHAT ARE YOU SO WORRIED ABOUT?
I'M MOMENTARILY SPEECHLESS.
LOOK AT THE TIME-- I'D BETTER GO FINISH SUPPER!

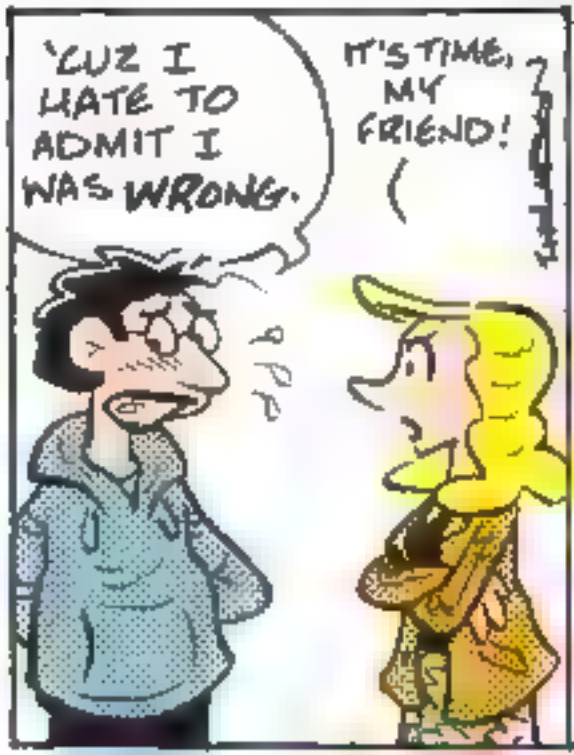

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU LEFT THE KIDS ALONE, LEN!
IT WAS ONLY FOR 15 MINUTES, ABBY!

THE COPS AREN'T HERE... THE HOUSE IS STILL STANDING... EVERYTHING'S FINE!


HOW DO YOU TURN OFF THE SMOKE DETECTOR?
WHOOP
WHOO


THE WHOLE KITCHEN'S FULL OF SMOKE!
IT'S ONLY THE MICROWAVE. THE KIDS OVERCOOKED SOME POP-CORN.
WE'LL JUST WIPE IT OUT. IT'S NO BIG DEAL.
LEN, THEY ALMOST BURNED THE HOUSE DOWN!
YOU NEVER SHOULD'VE LEFT THE KIDS ALONE.. EVEN FOR 15 MINUTES!
C'MON, ABBY.. IT COULD'VE BEEN A LOT WORSE.
AT LEAST WE AGREE ON SOME-THING.
WAIT.. LET ME REPHRASE THAT...





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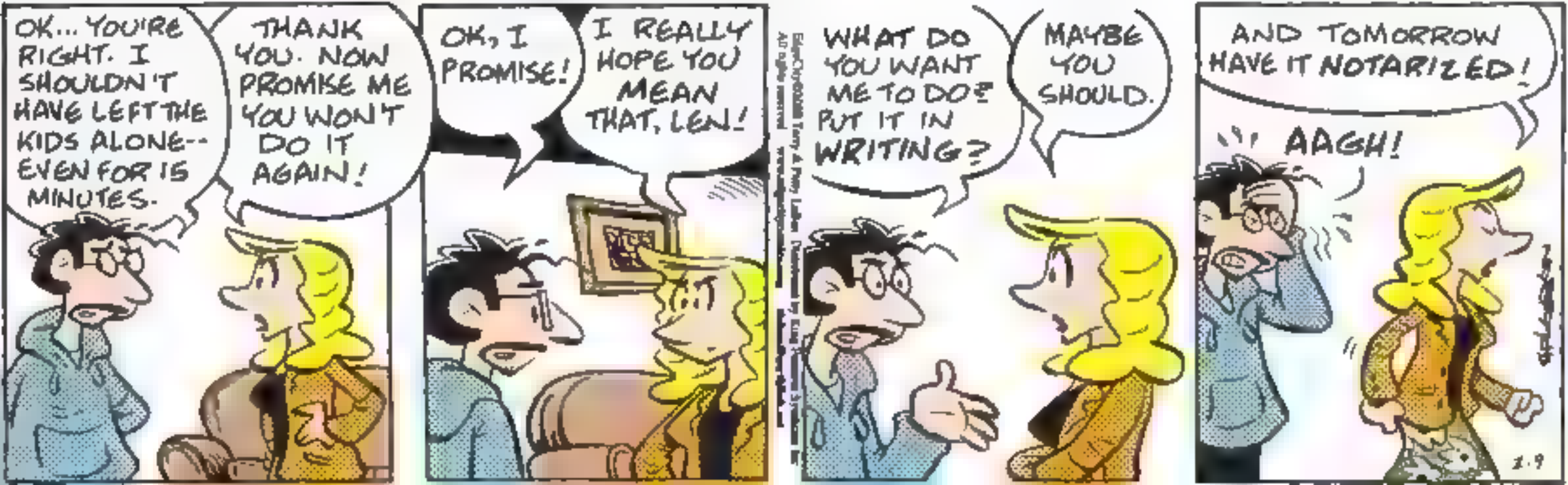
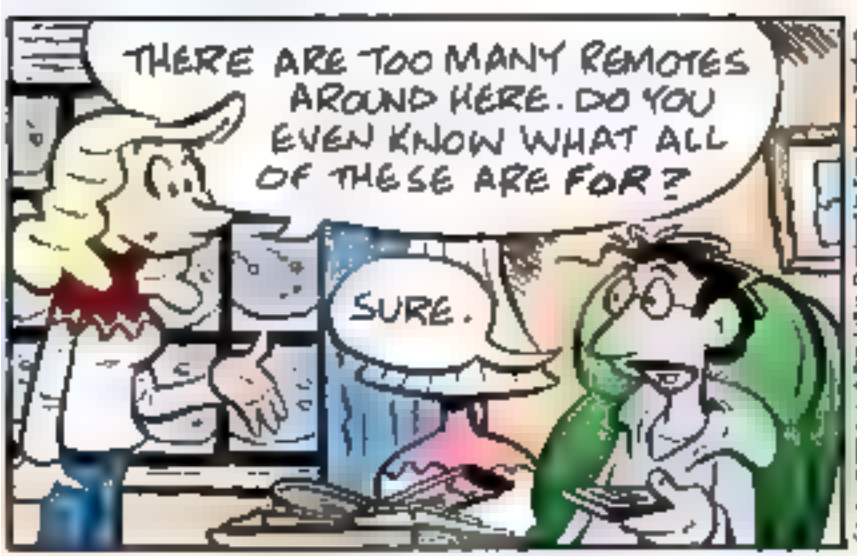
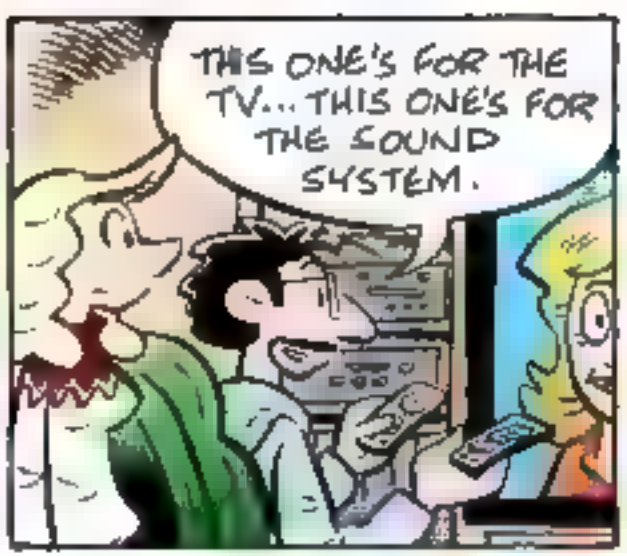
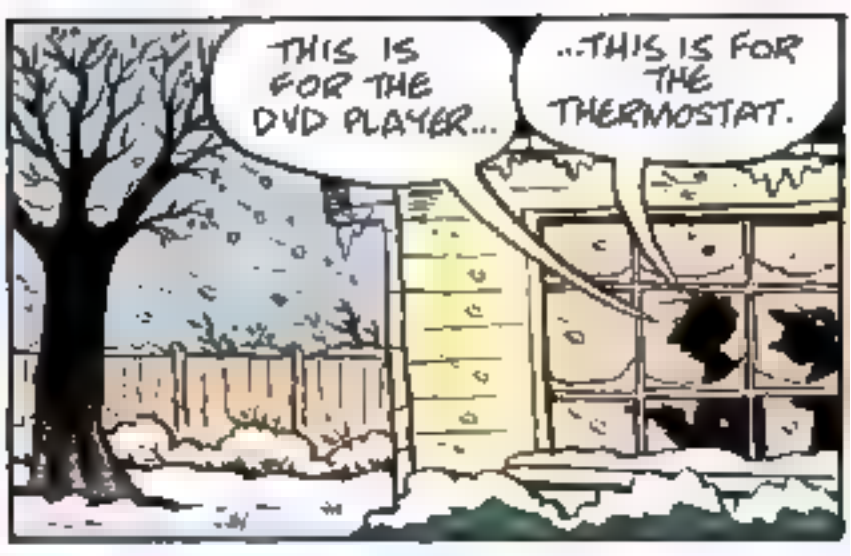

OK... YOU'RE RIGHT. I SHOULDN'T HAVE LEFT THE KIDS ALONE-- EVEN FOR 15 MINUTES.
THANK YOU. NOW PROMISE ME YOU WON'T DO IT AGAIN!
OK, I PROMISE!
I REALLY HOPE YOU MEAN THAT, LEN!
WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO? PUT IT IN WRITING?
MAYBE YOU SHOULD.
AND TOMORROW HAVE IT NOTARIZED!
AAGH!

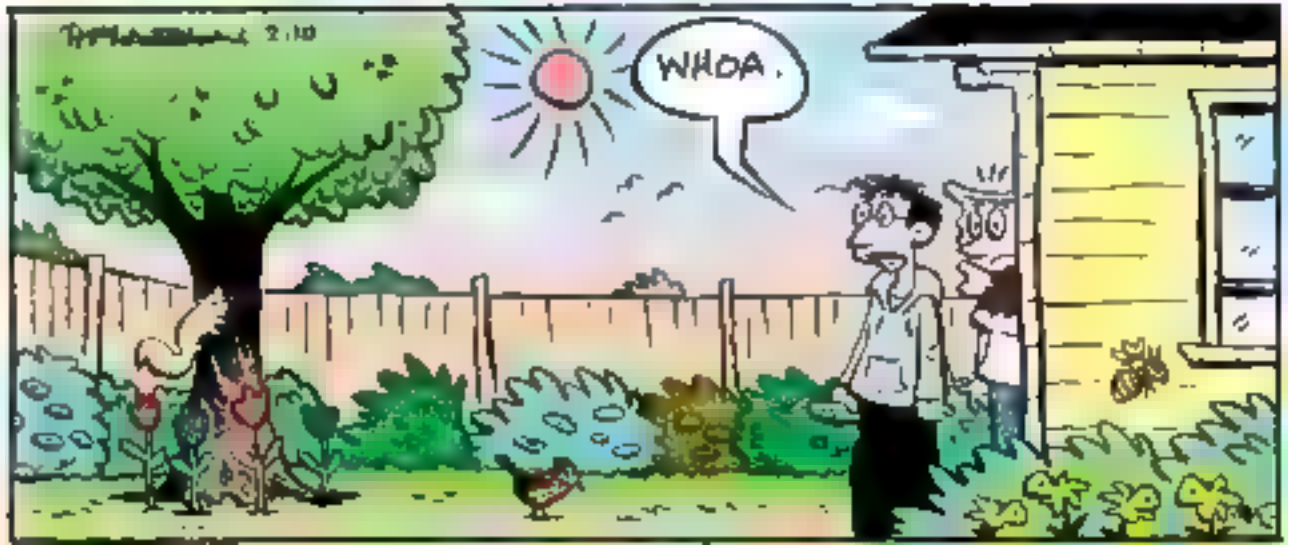

THERE ARE TOO MANY REMOTES AROUND HERE. DO YOU EVEN KNOW WHAT ALL OF THESE ARE FOR?
SURE.

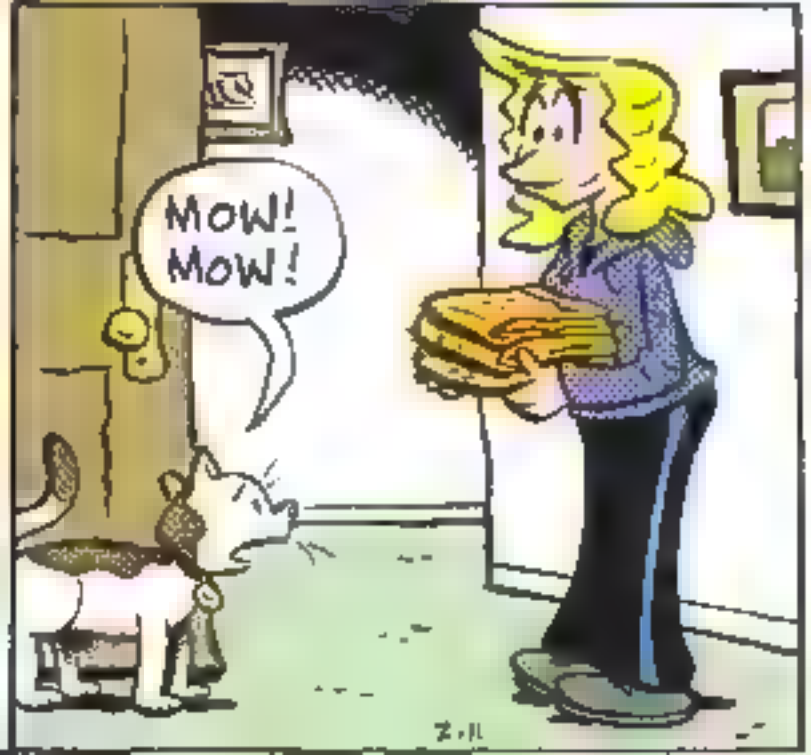

THIS ONE'S FOR THE TV... THIS ONE'S FOR THE SOUND SYSTEM.

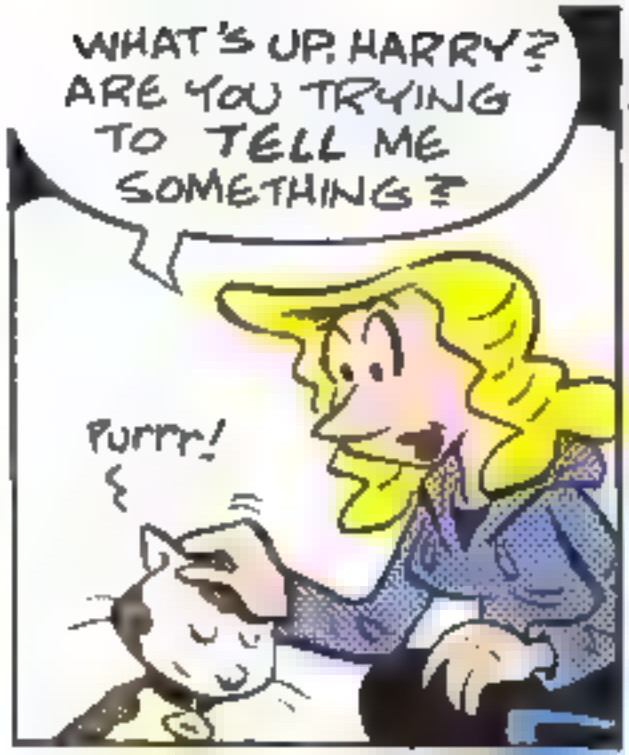

THIS IS FOR THE DVD PLAYER...
...THIS IS FOR THE THERMOSTAT.

AND WHAT'S THIS ONE?
HMM... I DON'T RECOGNIZE IT.

WELL, THERE'S ONE WAY TO FIND OUT.
BLOOMP!


WHOA.





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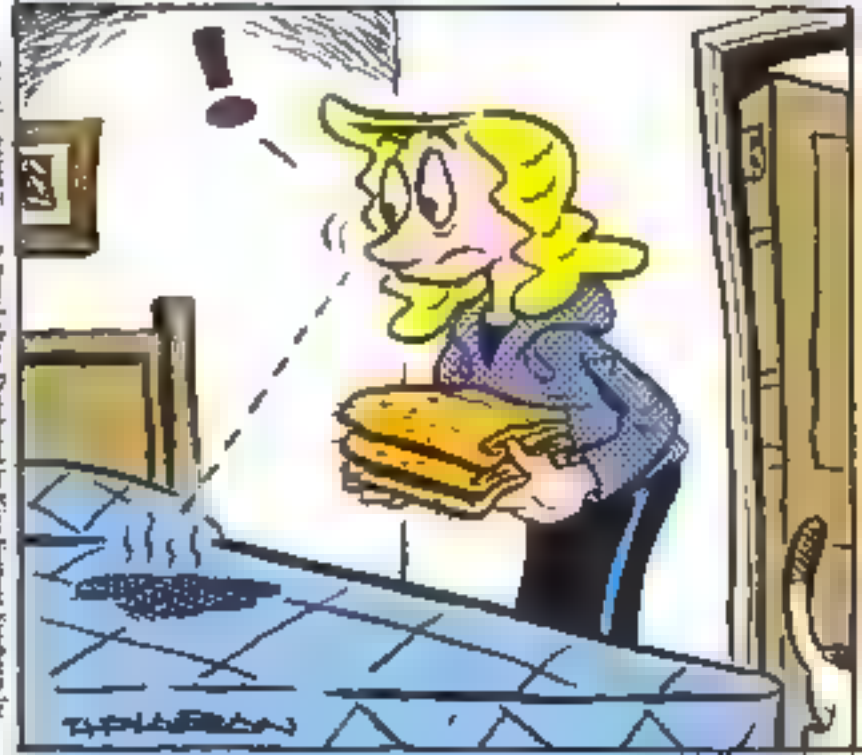
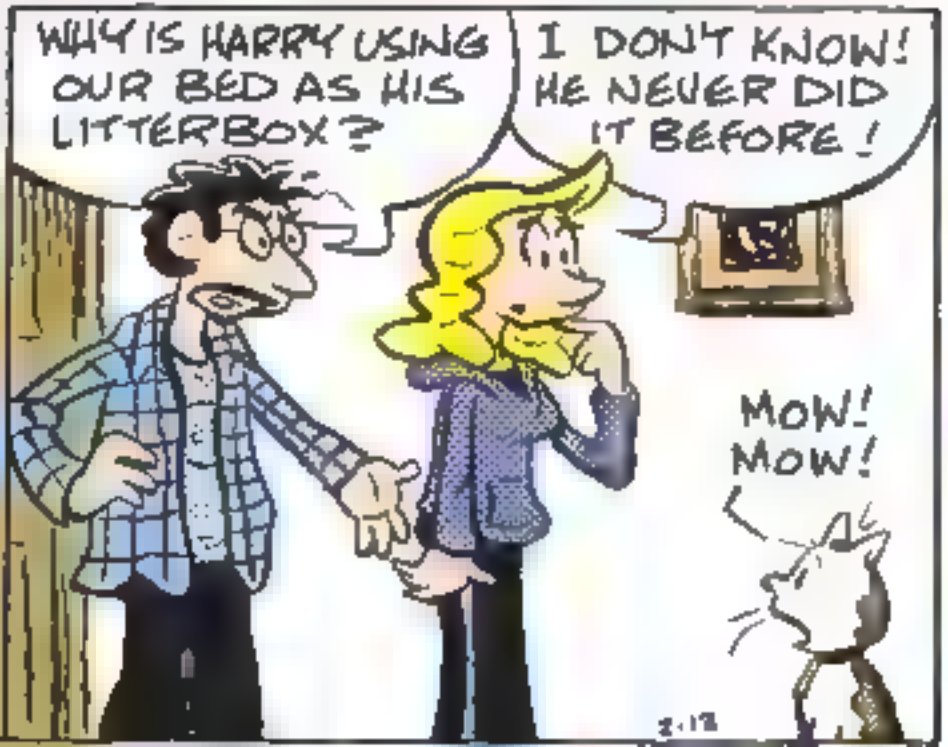
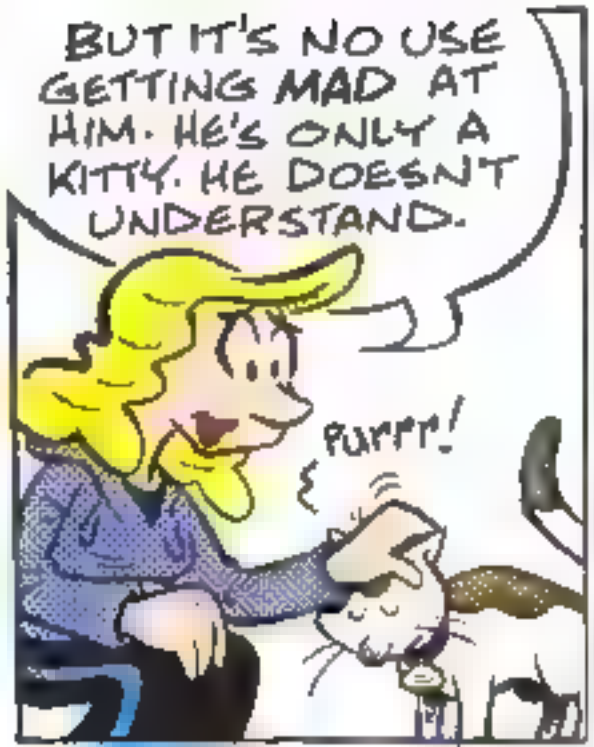


LEN, LOOK WHAT THE CAT DID ON OUR BED!
OH, MAN!
WHAT'S WITH THAT STUPID CAT?
IT ISN'T LIKE HIM! MAYBE HE JUST HAD AN ACCIDENT.
MOM! LOOK WHAT HARRY DID ON MY BED!!
MOW!





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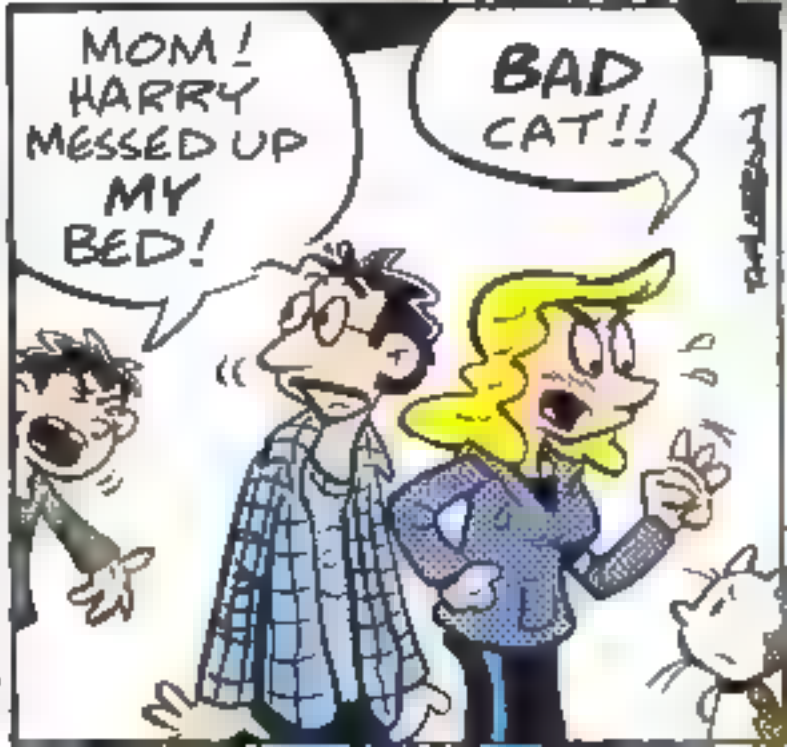

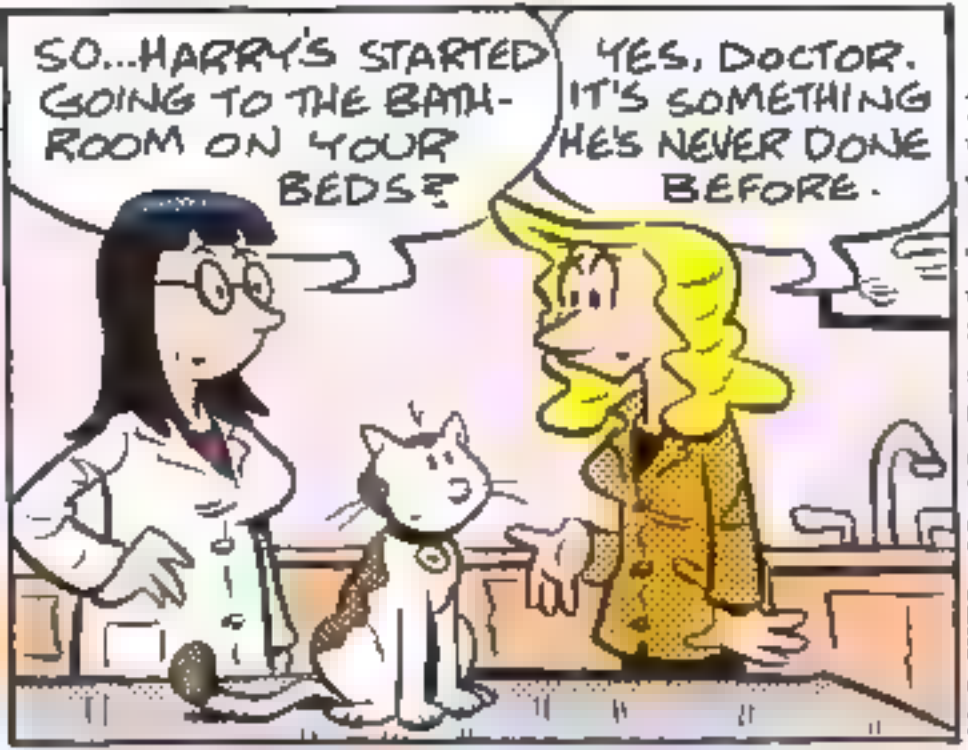

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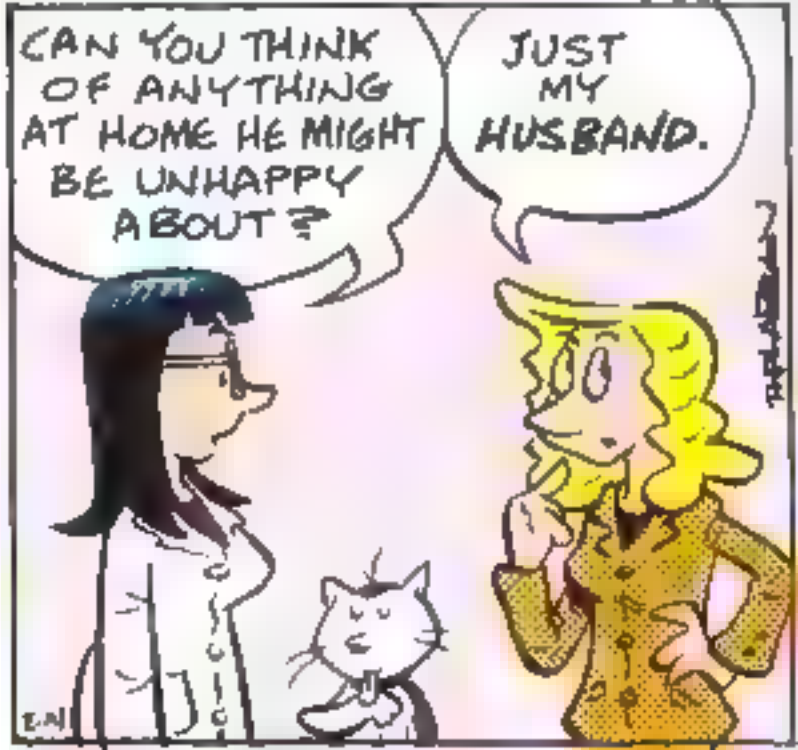
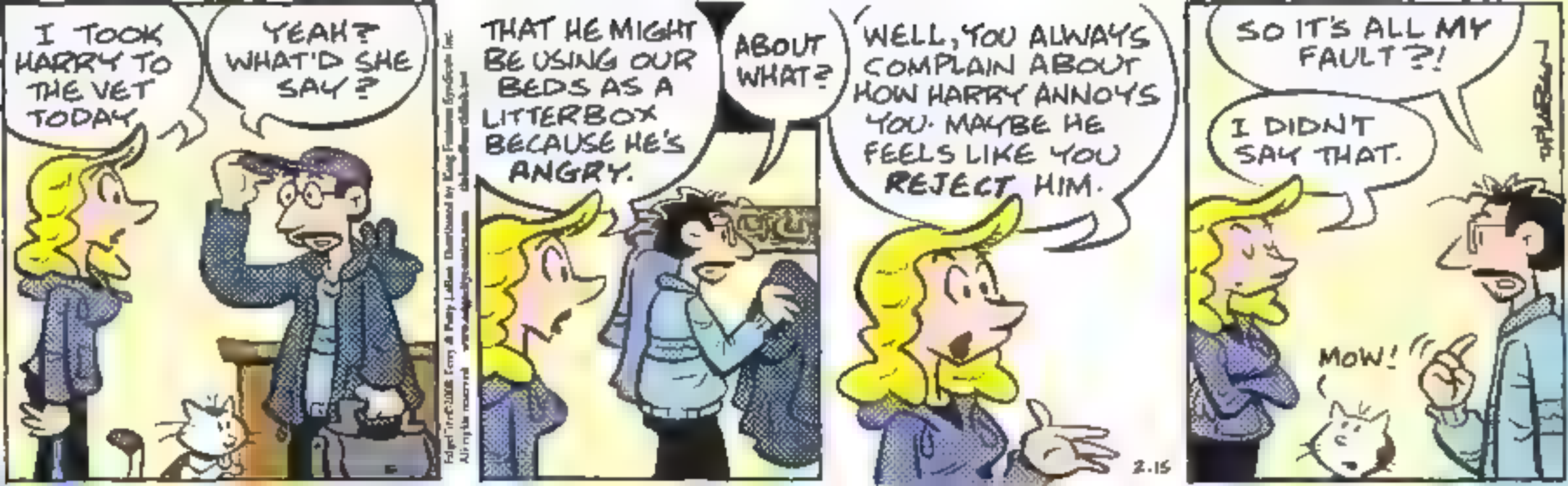
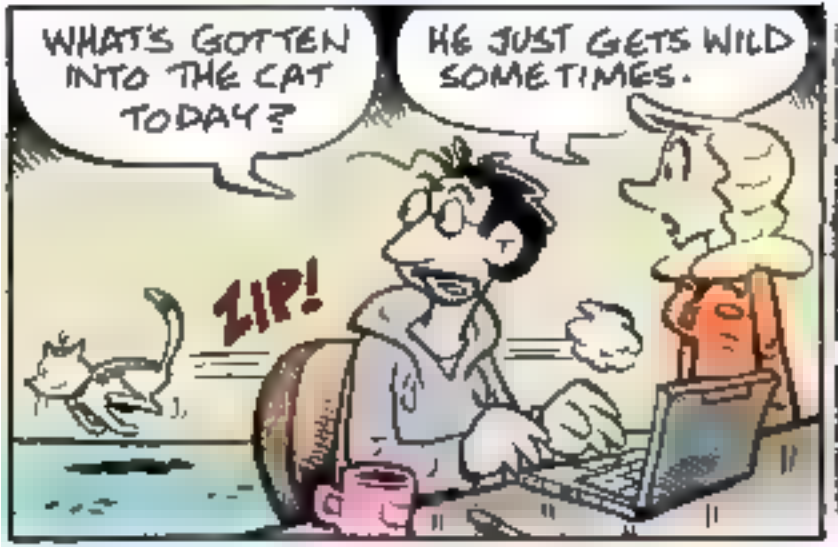
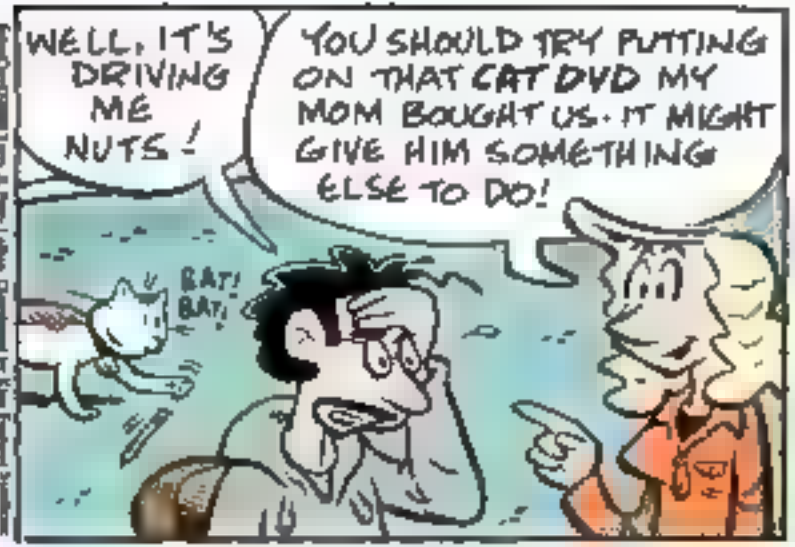
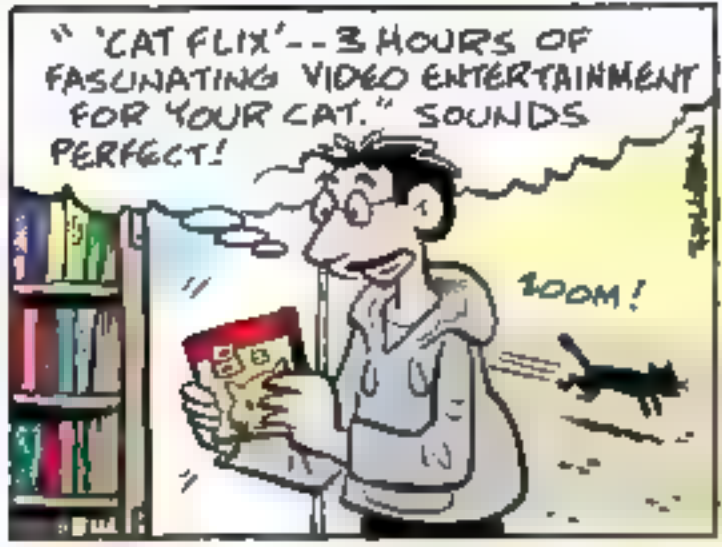


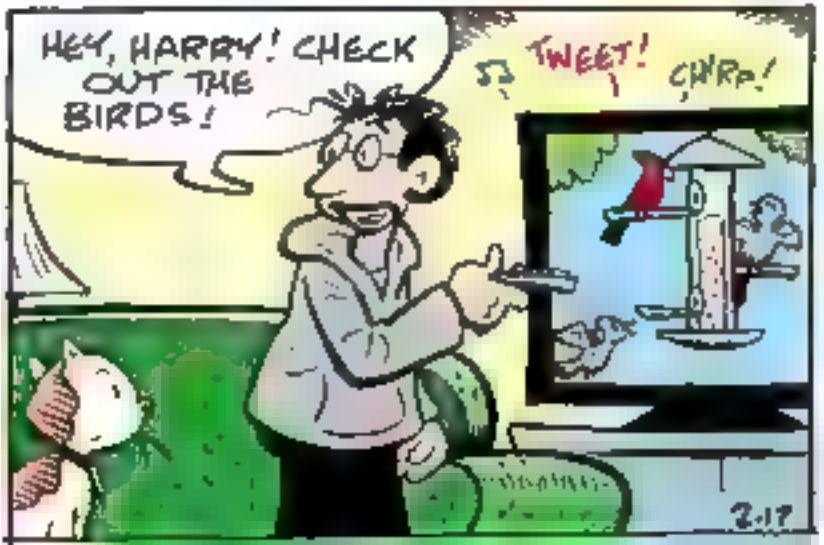

I TOOK HARRY TO THE VET TODAY
YEAH? WHAT'D SHE SAY?
THAT HE MIGHT BE USING OUR BEDS AS A LITTERBOX BECAUSE HE'S ANGRY.
ABOUT WHAT?
WELL, YOU ALWAYS COMPLAIN ABOUT HOW HARRY ANNOYS YOU. MAYBE HE FEELS LIKE YOU REJECT HIM.
2.15
SO IT'S ALL MY FAULT?!
I DIDN'T SAY THAT.
MOW!

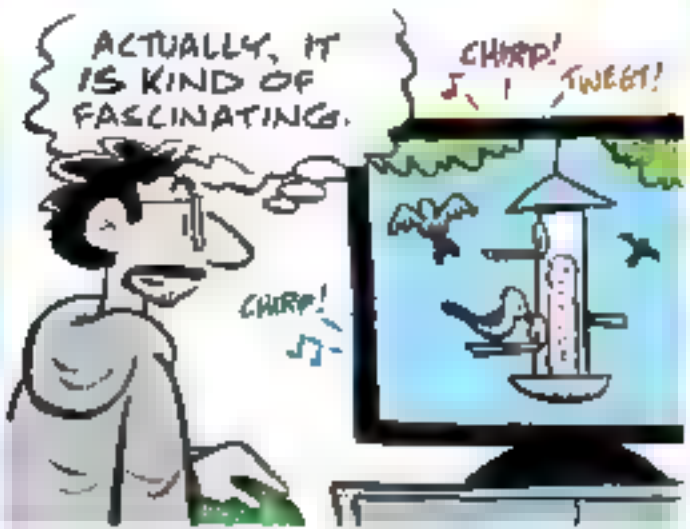
YOU THINK THE CAT'S MAD AT ME, ABBY?
HE MAY SENSE THAT YOU REGARD HIM AS AN ANNOYANCE.
BUT I HAVEN'T BEEN TREATING HIM ANY DIFFERENTLY. WHY WOULD HE START ACTING OUT NOW?
MAYBE THINGS THAT SEEMED MINOR EARLIER JUST BUILT UP... TO THE POINT WHERE HE WAS READY TO EXPLODE!!
ARE YOU SURE THIS IS JUST ABOUT THE CAT?
OF COURSE IT IS. WHY?
MOW!

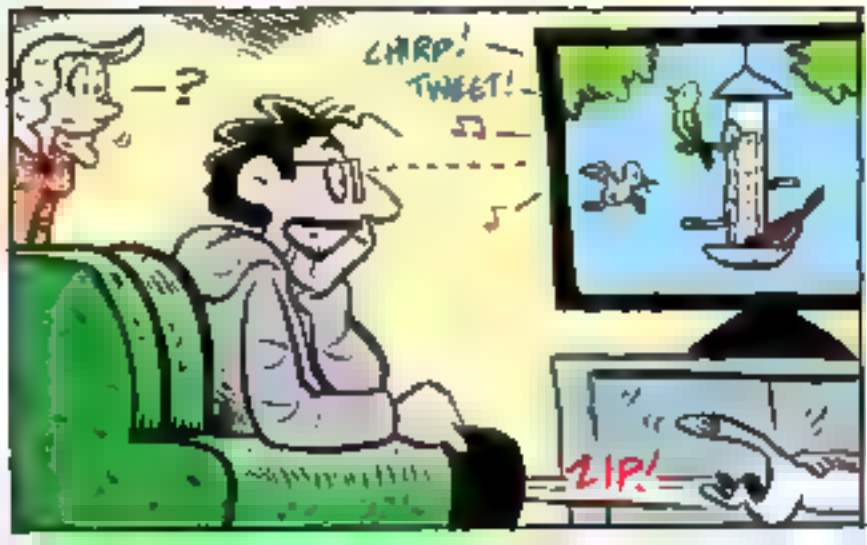

WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO THE CAT TODAY?
HE JUST GETS WILD SOMETIMES.
ZIP!

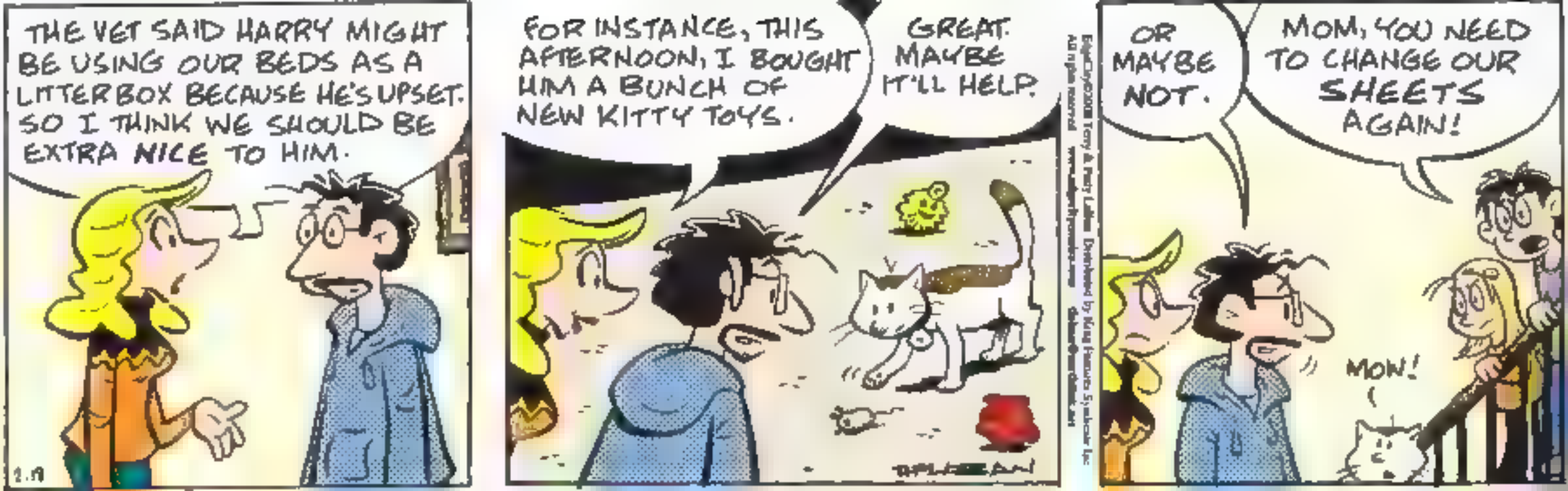

WELL, IT'S DRIVING ME NUTS!
YOU SHOULD TRY PUTTING ON THAT CAT DVD MY MOM BOUGHT US. IT MIGHT GIVE HIM SOMETHING ELSE TO DO!
BAT! BAT!

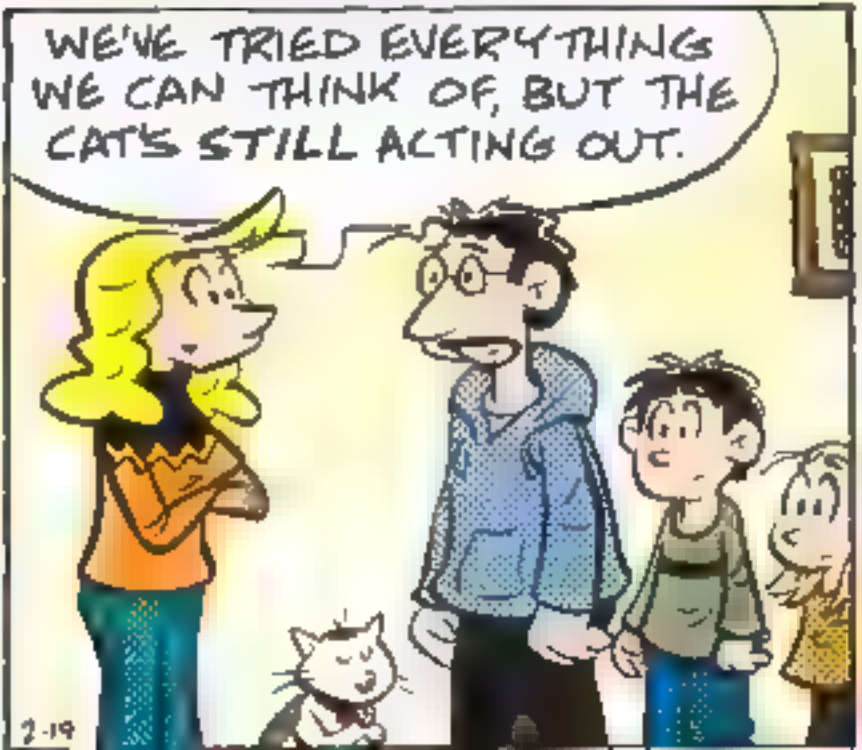

" 'CAT FLIX'--3 HOURS OF FASCINATING VIDEO ENTERTAINMENT FOR YOUR CAT." SOUNDS PERFECT!
ZOOM!


HEY, HARRY! CHECK OUT THE BIRDS!
TWEET!
CHIRP!
2-17


ACTUALLY, IT IS KIND OF FASCINATING.
CHIRP!
TWEET!
CHIRP!


—?
CHIRP!
TWEET!
ZIP!


THE VET SAID HARRY MIGHT BE USING OUR BEDS AS A LITTERBOX BECAUSE HE'S UPSET. SO I THINK WE SHOULD BE EXTRA NICE TO HIM.
FOR INSTANCE, THIS AFTERNOON, I BOUGHT HIM A BUNCH OF NEW KITTY TOYS.
GREAT. MAYBE IT'LL HELP.
OR MAYBE NOT.
MOM, YOU NEED TO CHANGE OUR SHEETS AGAIN!
MOW!



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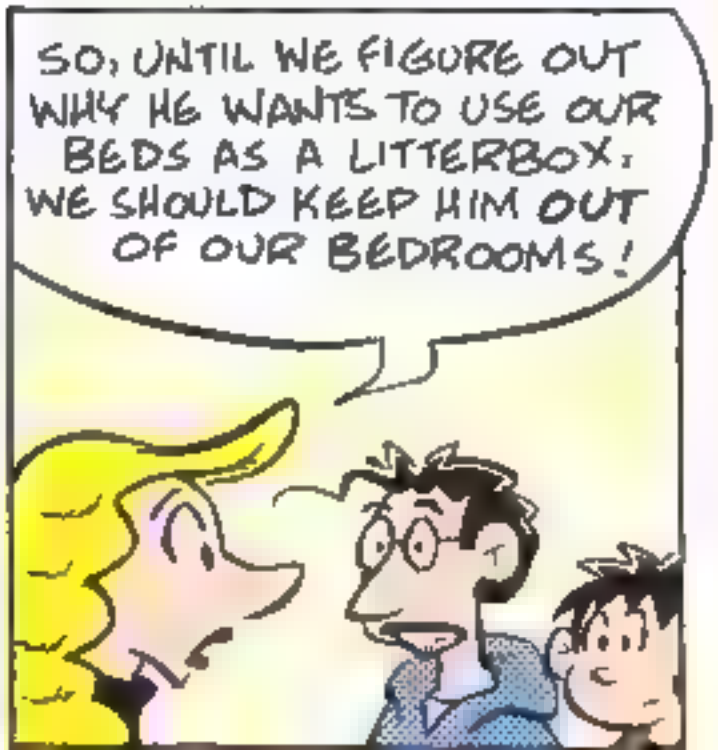

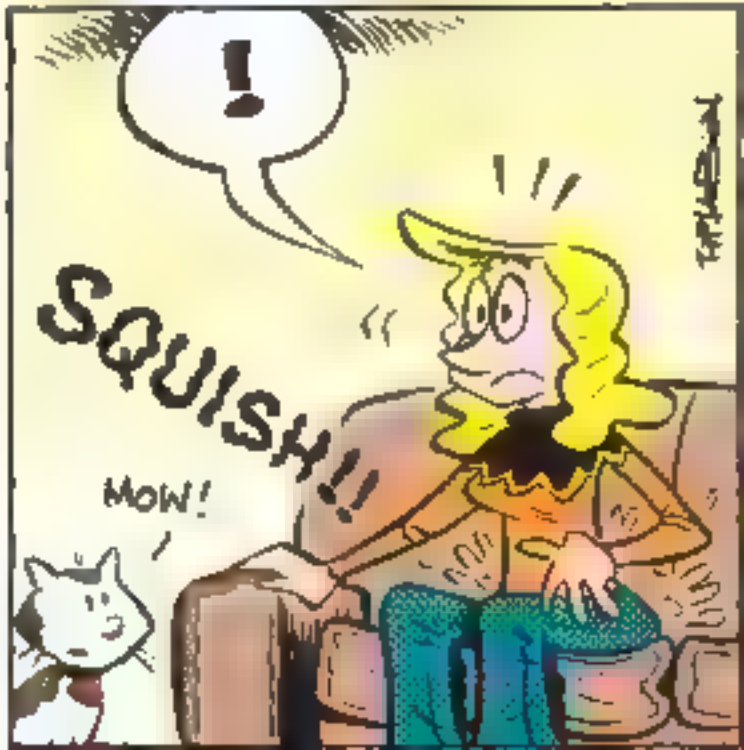

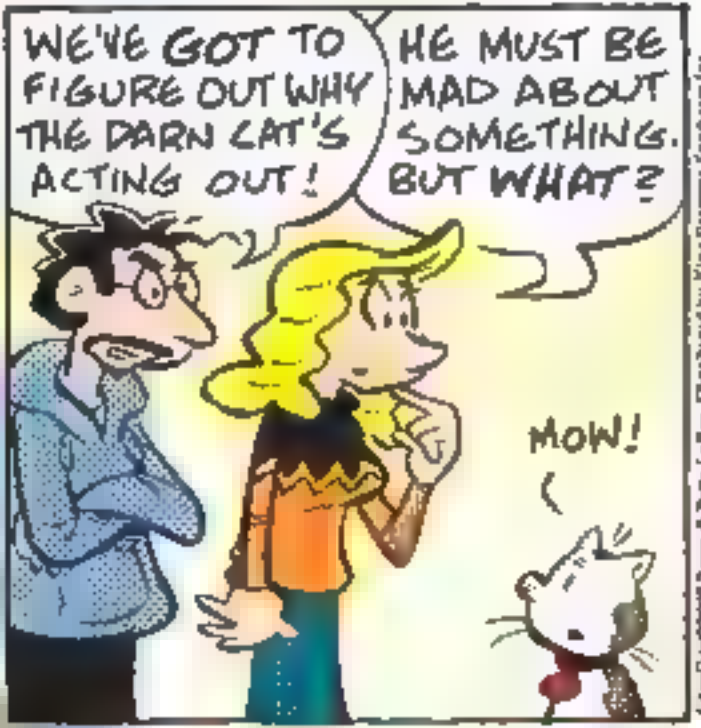

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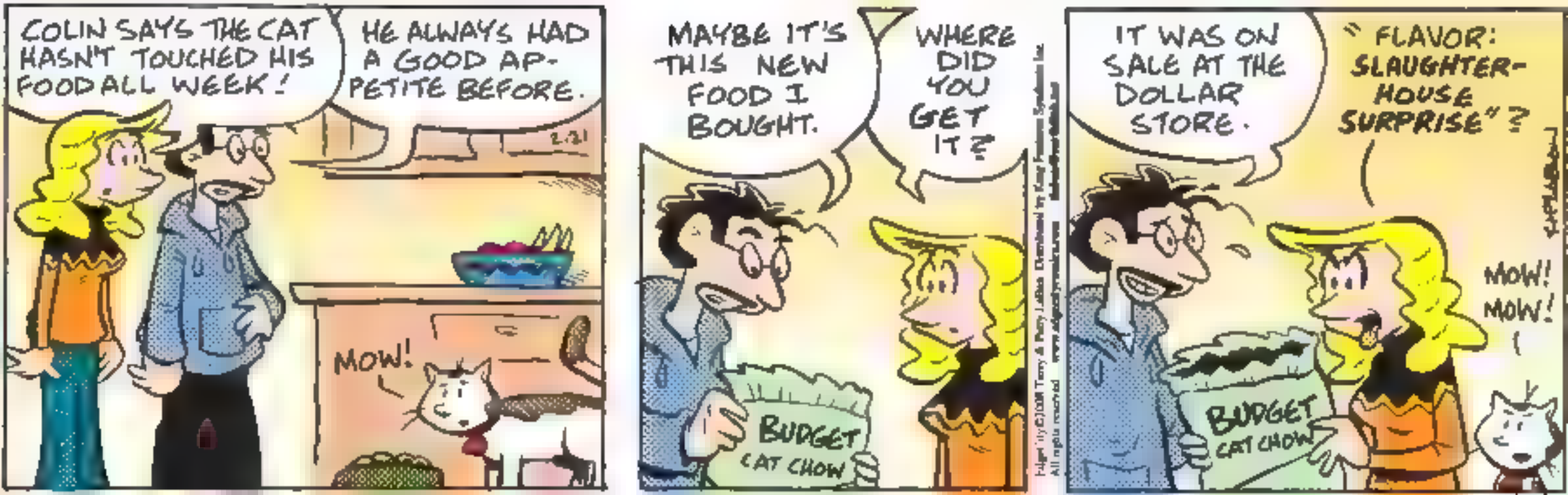
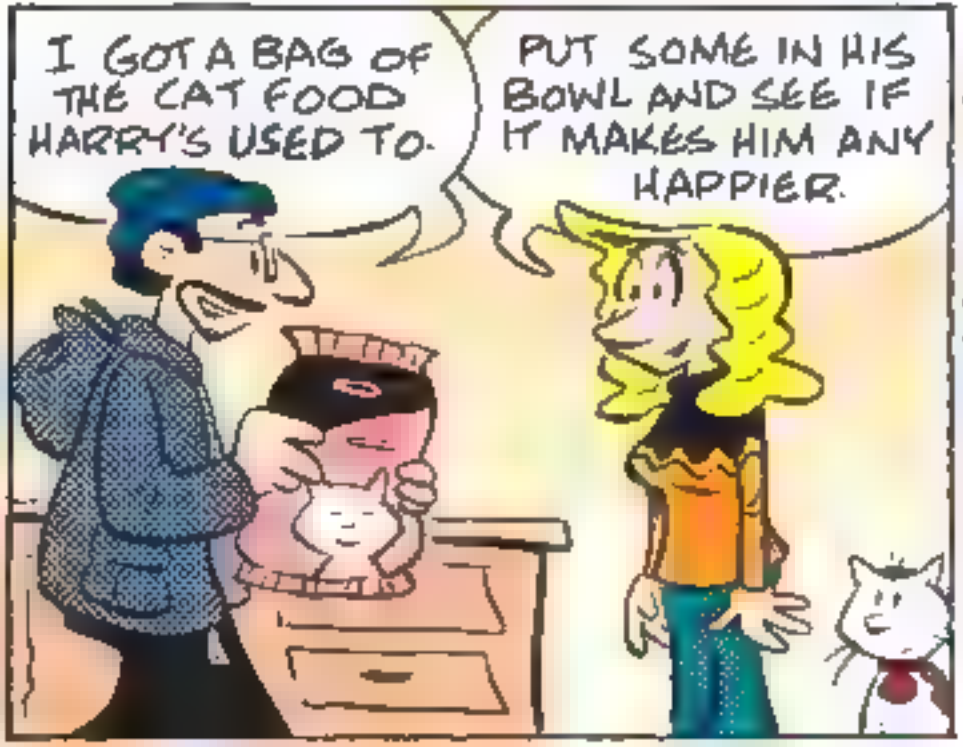

COLIN SAYS THE CAT HASN'T TOUCHED HIS FOOD ALL WEEK!
HE ALWAYS HAD A GOOD APPETITE BEFORE.
MOW!
MAYBE IT'S THIS NEW FOOD I BOUGHT.
WHERE DID YOU GET IT?
BUDGET CAT CHOW
IT WAS ON SALE AT THE DOLLAR STORE.
"FLAVOR: SLAUGHTER-HOUSE SURPRISE"?
BUDGET CAT CHOW
MOW! MOW!



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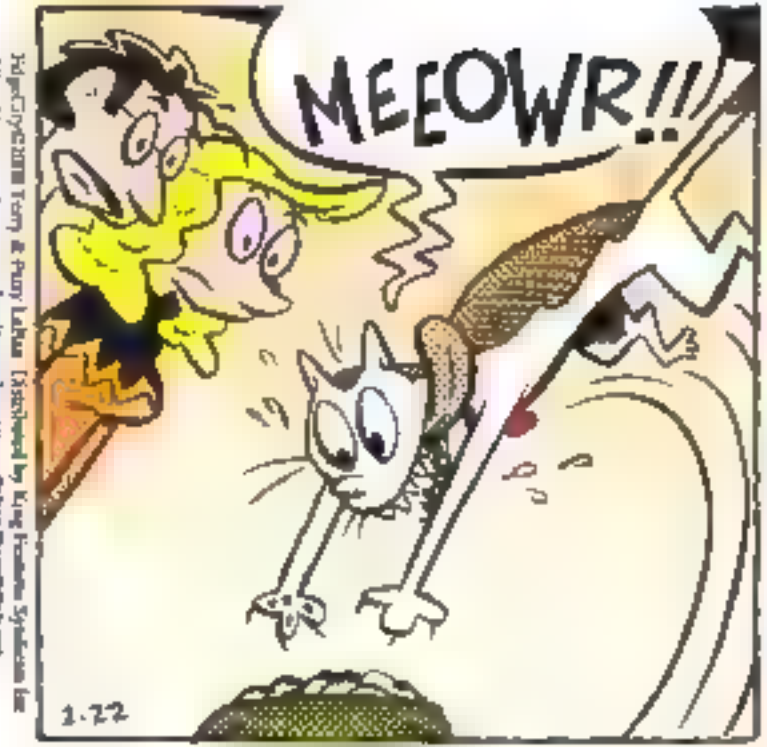
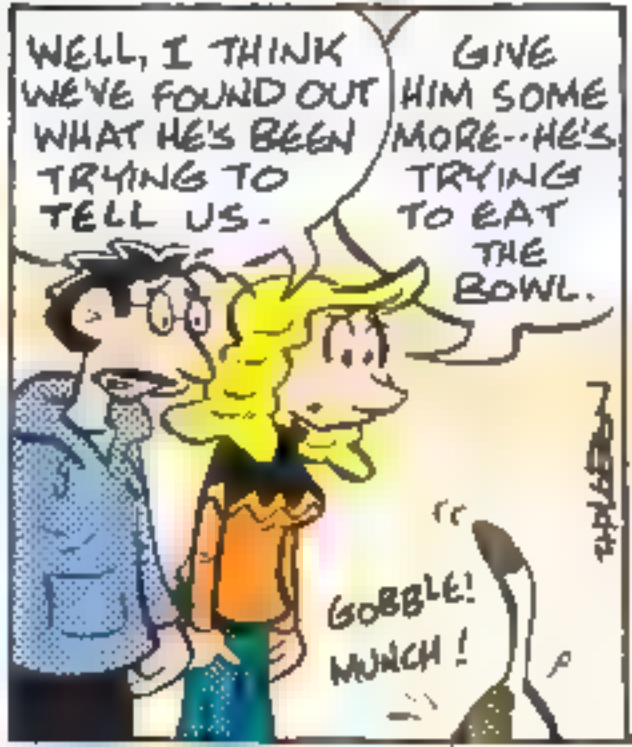
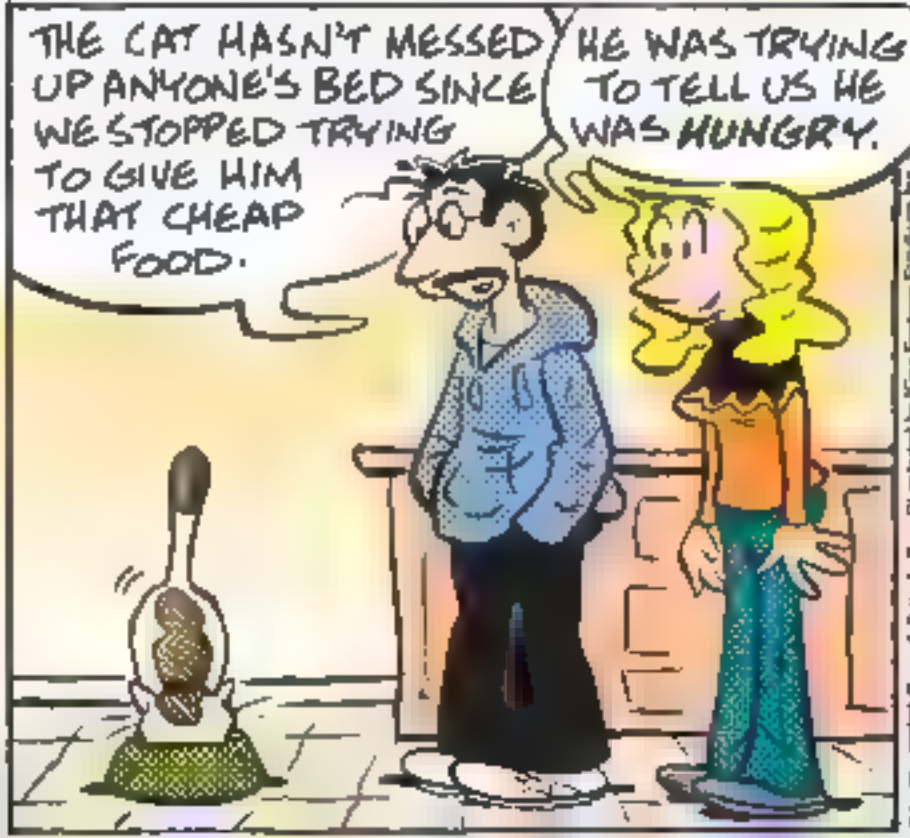
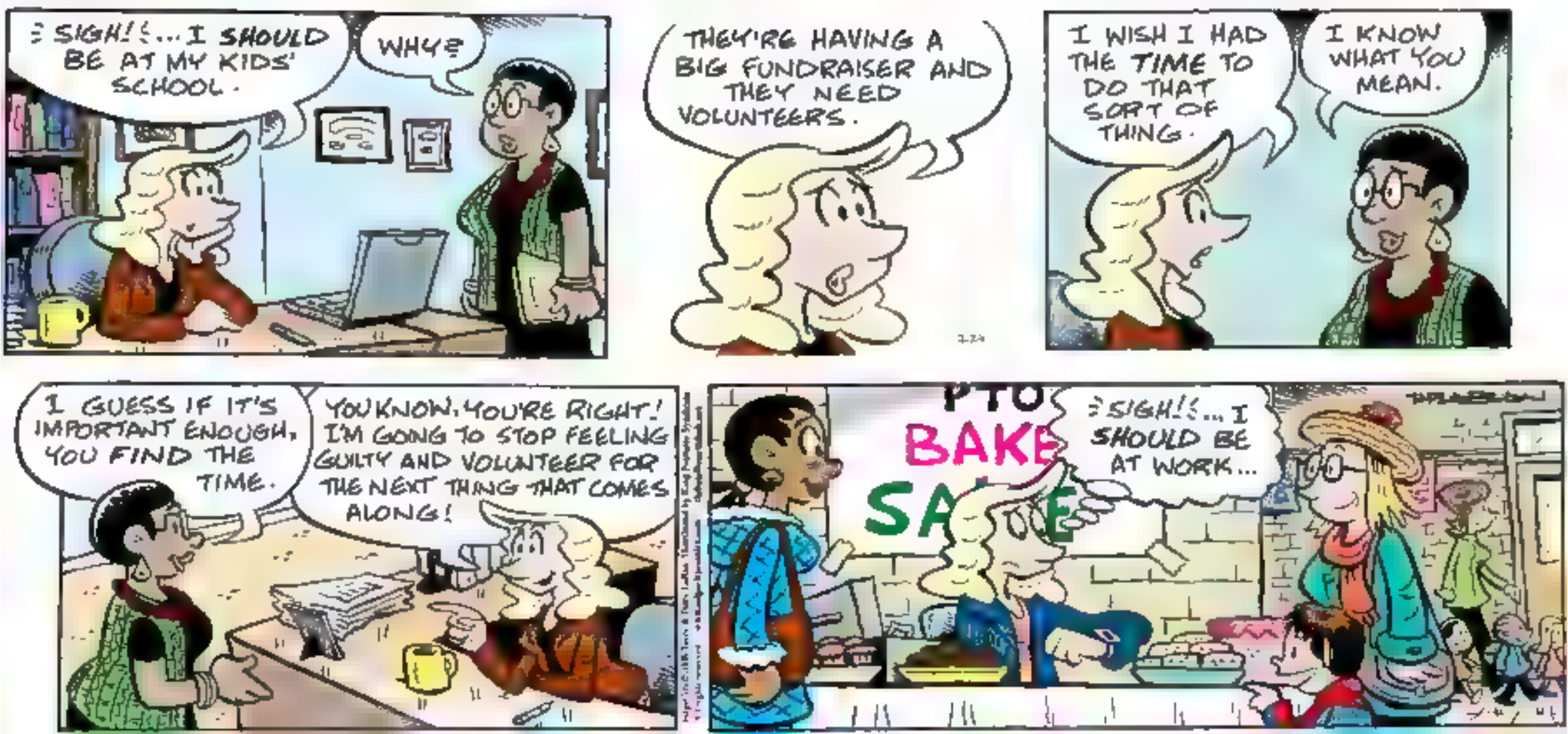




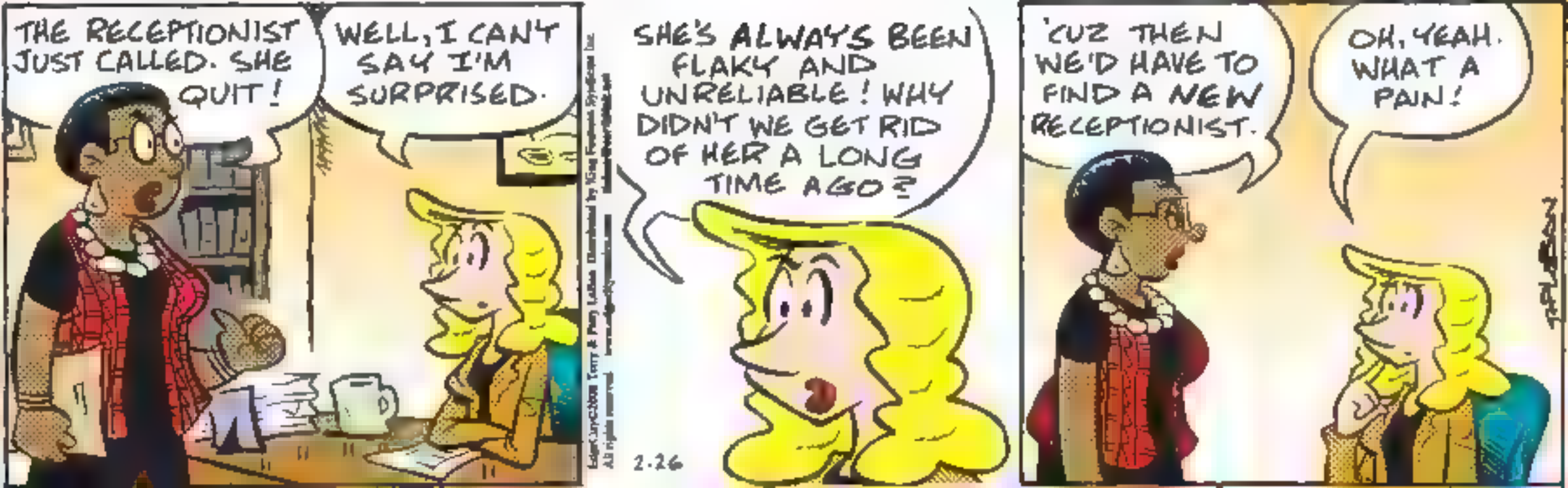

THE CAT HASN'T MESSED UP ANYONE'S BED SINCE WE STOPPED TRYING TO GIVE HIM THAT CHEAP FOOD.
HE WAS TRYING TO TELL US HE WAS HUNGRY.

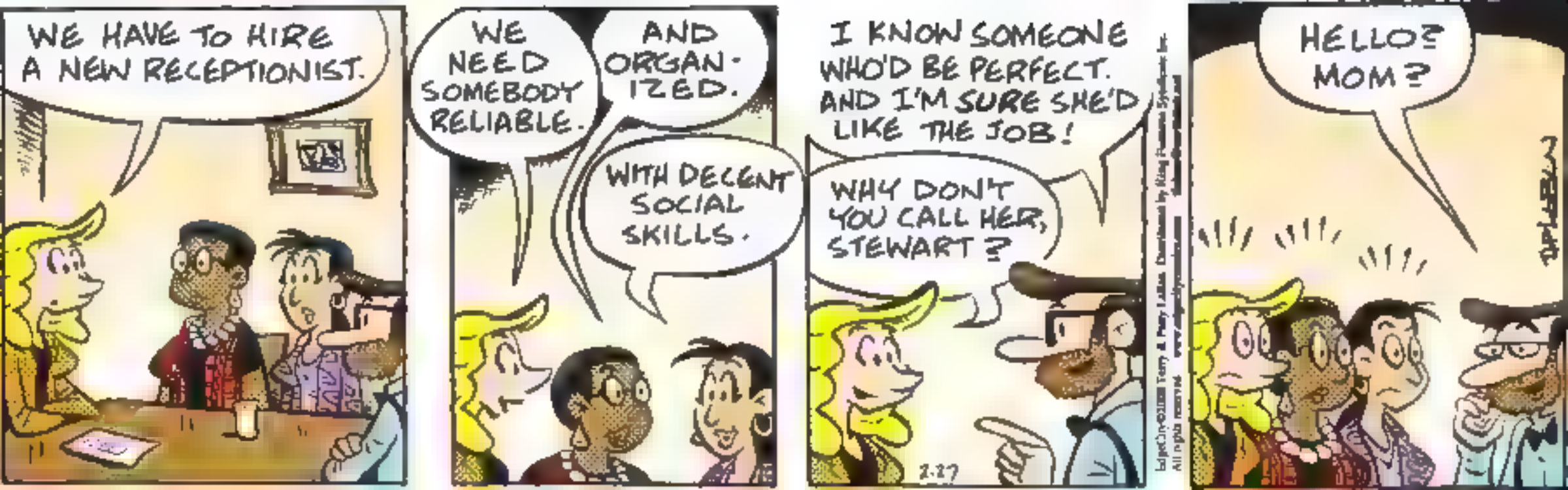
WELL, THAT'S ANOTHER PROBLEM SOLVED.
YEAH. I'M GLAD THAT NOW HE HAS FOOD HE LIKES.
2.23

MAYBE TOO MUCH.
MOM! THE CAT THREW UP ON MY BACKPACK!


SIGH!... I SHOULD BE AT MY KIDS' SCHOOL.
WHY?
THEY'RE HAVING A BIG FUNDRAISER AND THEY NEED VOLUNTEERS.
I WISH I HAD THE TIME TO DO THAT SORT OF THING.
I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN.
I GUESS IF IT'S IMPORTANT ENOUGH, YOU FIND THE TIME.
YOU KNOW, YOU'RE RIGHT! I'M GOING TO STOP FEELING GUILTY AND VOLUNTEER FOR THE NEXT THING THAT COMES ALONG!
PTO
BAKE
SALE
SIGH!... I SHOULD BE AT WORK...

IT'S ALMOST 10A.M. AND THE RECEPTIONIST ISN'T IN YET!
NOT AGAIN! SHE'S SO UNRELIABLE!
PERSONALLY, I'VE HAD IT! WE REALLY OUGHT TO LET HER GO!
I AGREE.
2-25
JUST NOT TODAY.
♪ HELLO, ANDREA? IT'D BE SO GREAT IF YOU COULD COME IN SOON... ♫


THE RECEPTIONIST JUST CALLED. SHE QUIT!
WELL, I CAN'T SAY I'M SURPRISED.
SHE'S ALWAYS BEEN FLAKY AND UNRELIABLE! WHY DIDN'T WE GET RID OF HER A LONG TIME AGO?
'CUZ THEN WE'D HAVE TO FIND A NEW RECEPTIONIST.
OH, YEAH. WHAT A PAIN!
2-26


WE HAVE TO HIRE A NEW RECEPTIONIST.
WE NEED SOMEBODY RELIABLE.
AND ORGANIZED.
WITH DECENT SOCIAL SKILLS.
I KNOW SOMEONE WHO'D BE PERFECT. AND I'M SURE SHE'D LIKE THE JOB!
WHY DON'T YOU CALL HER, STEWART?
2-27
HELLO? MOM?

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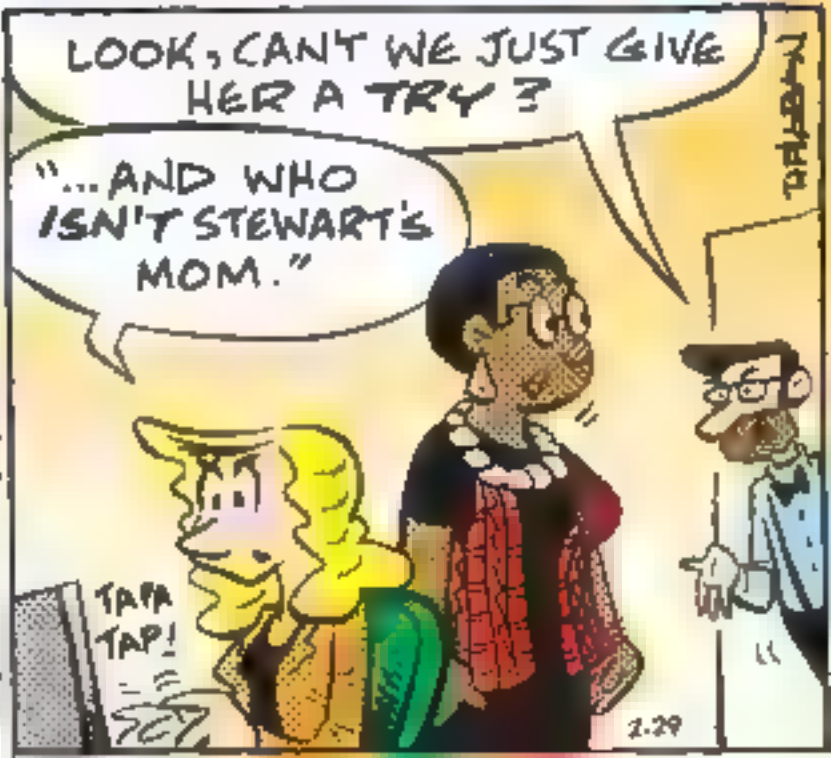
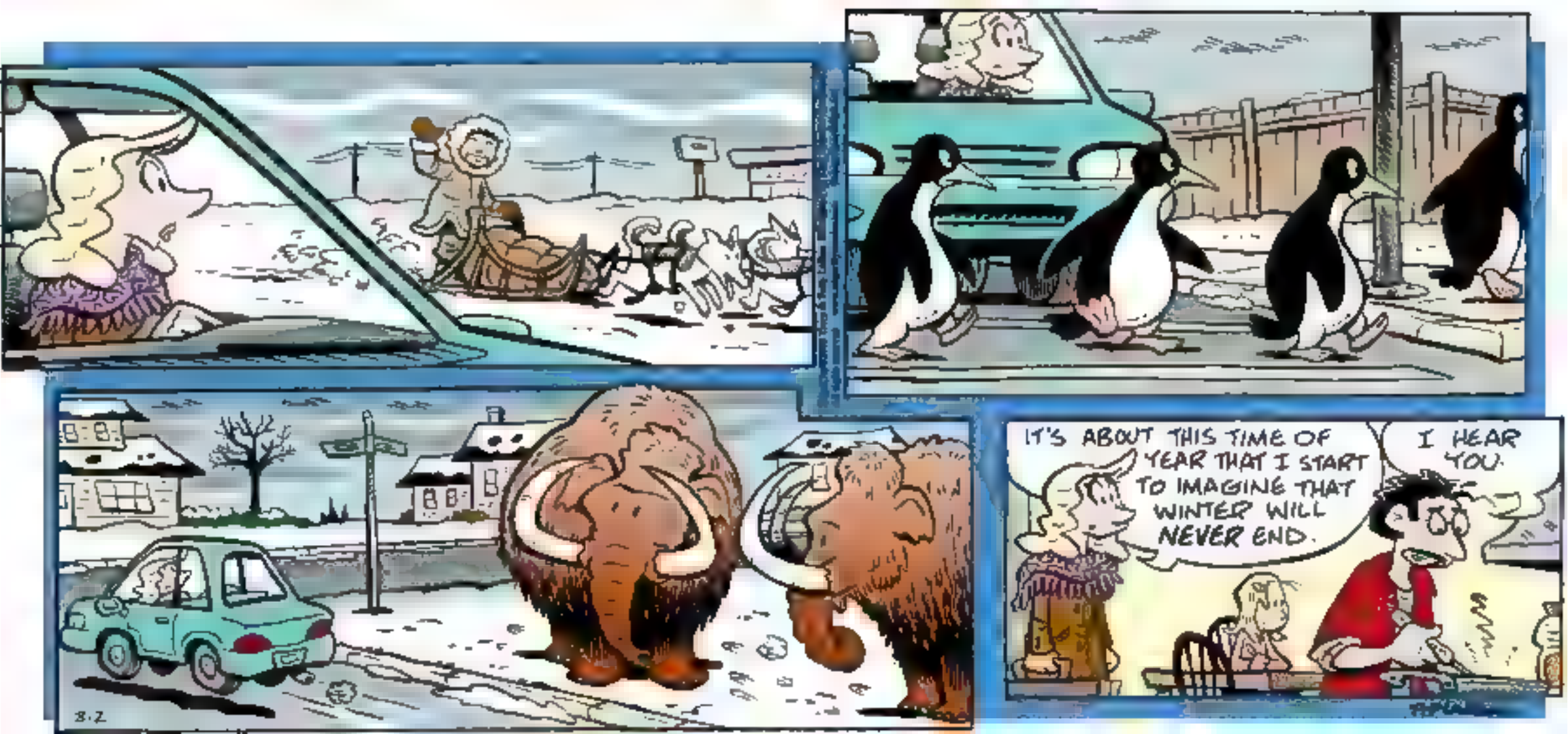


DID THE NEW RECEPTIONIST START YET?
YUP.
HOW'S SHE DOING?
WELL... SHE CERTAINLY HAS BEEN WORKING HARD.
AT LEAST ON HER BLOG.
WELL, HERE I AM, AT ANOTHER STUPID JOB...


IT'S ABOUT THIS TIME OF YEAR THAT I START TO IMAGINE THAT WINTER WILL NEVER END.
I HEAR YOU.
B.Z

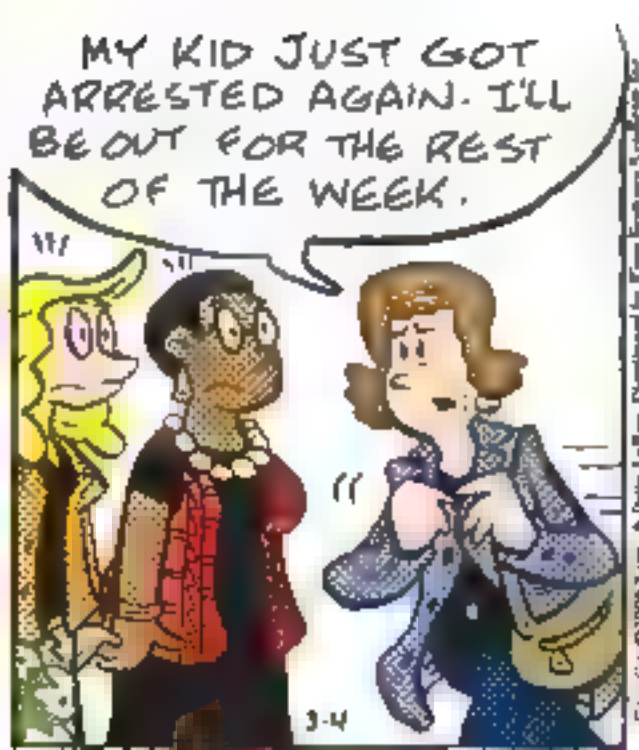
THE LAST RECEPTIONIST DIDN'T LAST LONG.
NO. BUT WE FOUND ANOTHER.
Heads Up
Mental Health Ca

I'M NOT SURE ABOUT THIS ONE, EITHER. SHE ISN'T VERY FRIENDLY AND SHE HAS HARDLY ANY EXPERIENCE.
YEAH... BUT SHE HAS ONE THING GOING FOR HER.
3.3

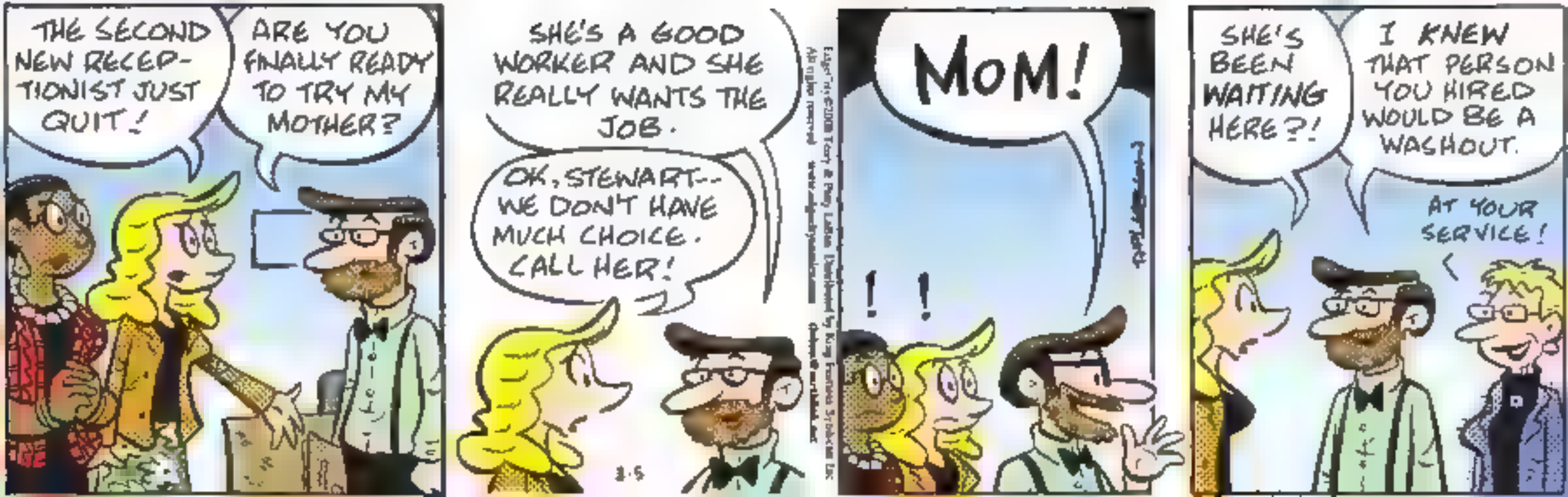
SHE COULD START THIS WEEK.
I'VE BEEN HERE AN HOUR ALREADY. WHEN'S MY BREAK?

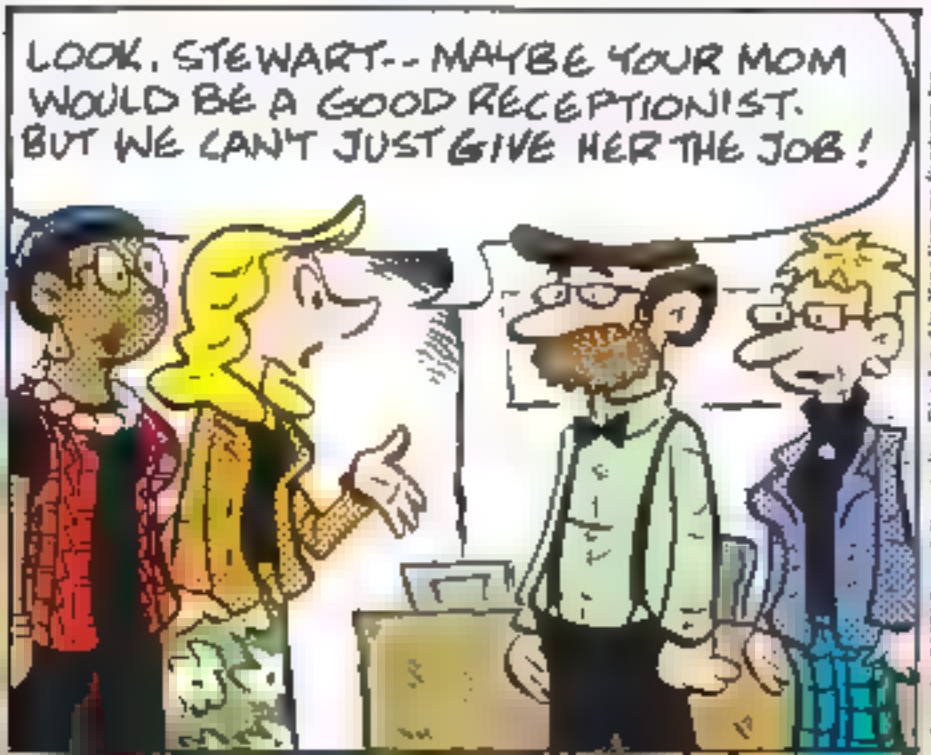
I HAVE MY DOUBTS ABOUT THIS NEW RECEPTIONIST.
Heads U
Mental Heal

SHE DOESN'T HAVE MUCH EXPERIENCE AND WE COULDN'T REACH HER REFERENCES.
WELL, SHE SEEMS TO BE DOING OK.


MY KID JUST GOT ARRESTED AGAIN. I'LL BE OUT FOR THE REST OF THE WEEK.
3-4

I JINXED IT.
NOW WHAT?


THE SECOND NEW RECEP-TIONIST JUST QUIT!
ARE YOU FINALLY READY TO TRY MY MOTHER?
SHE'S A GOOD WORKER AND SHE REALLY WANTS THE JOB.
OK, STEWART-- WE DON'T HAVE MUCH CHOICE. CALL HER!
MOM!
! !
SHE'S BEEN WAITING HERE?!
I KNEW THAT PERSON YOU HIRED WOULD BE A WASHOUT.
AT YOUR SERVICE!



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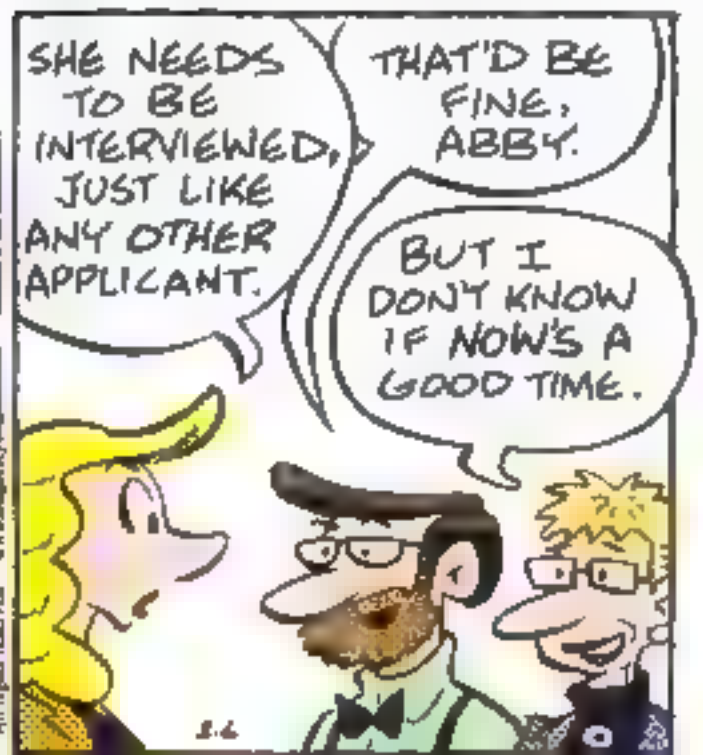
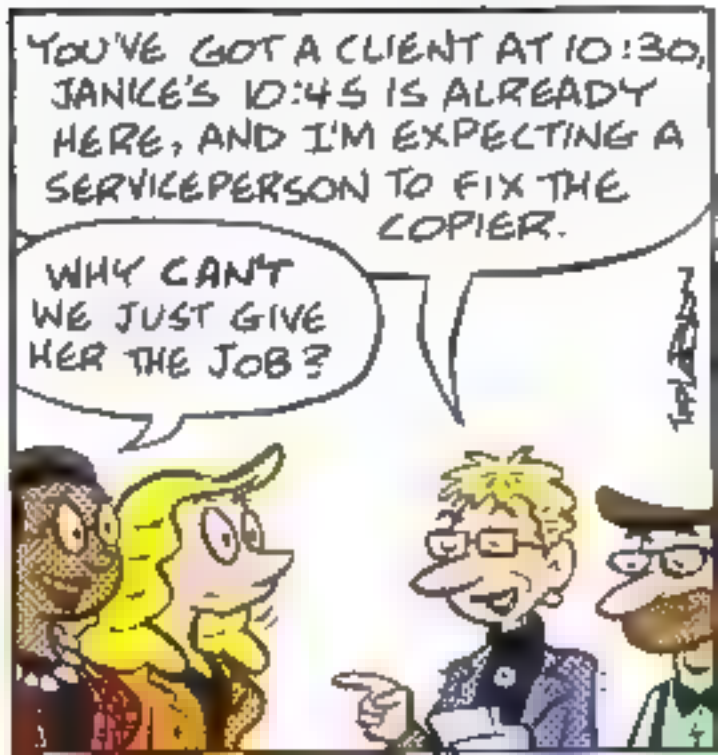
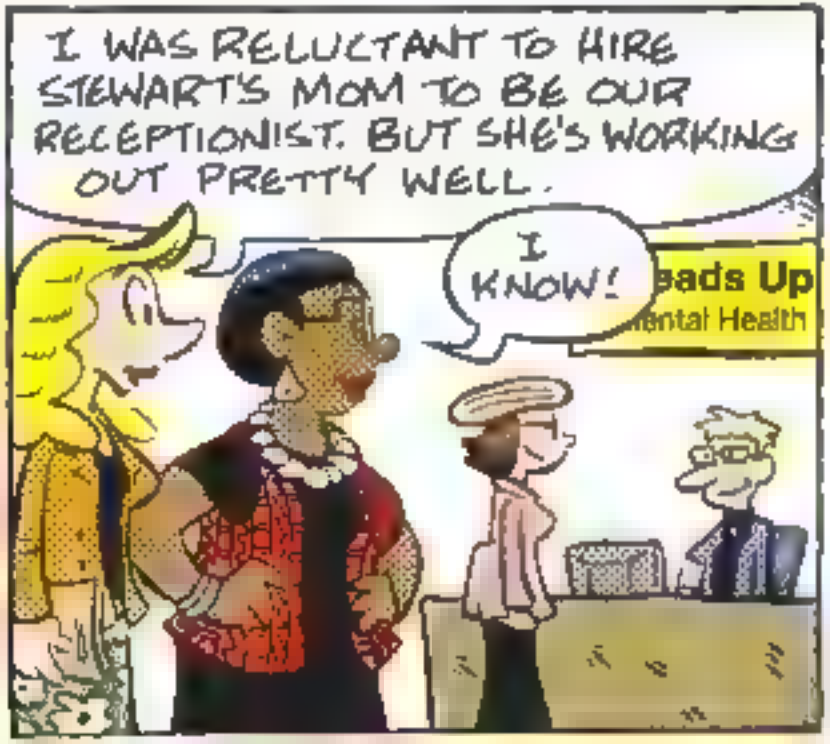
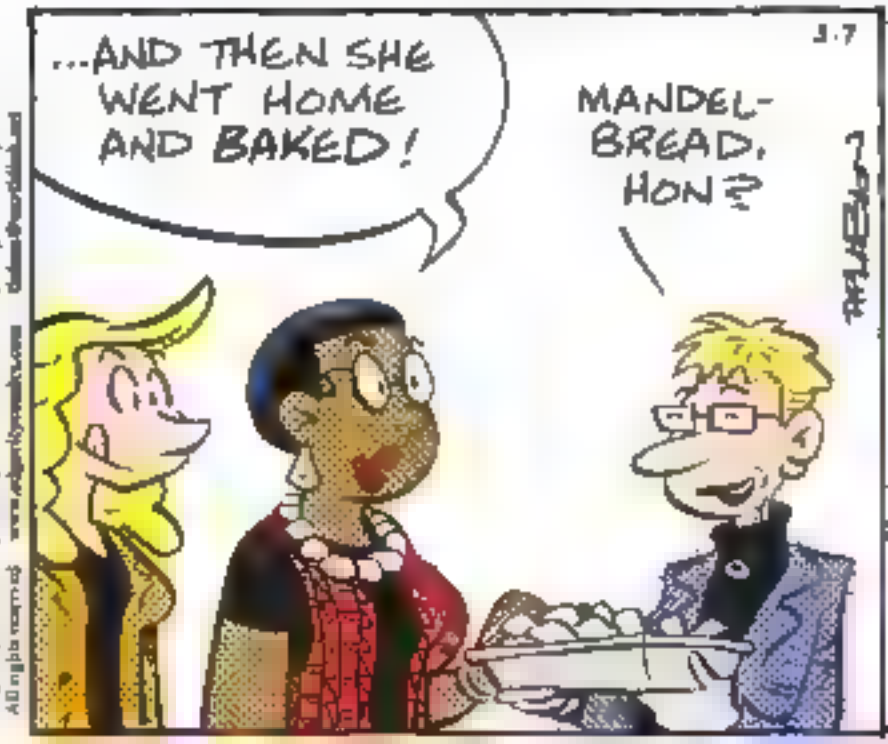
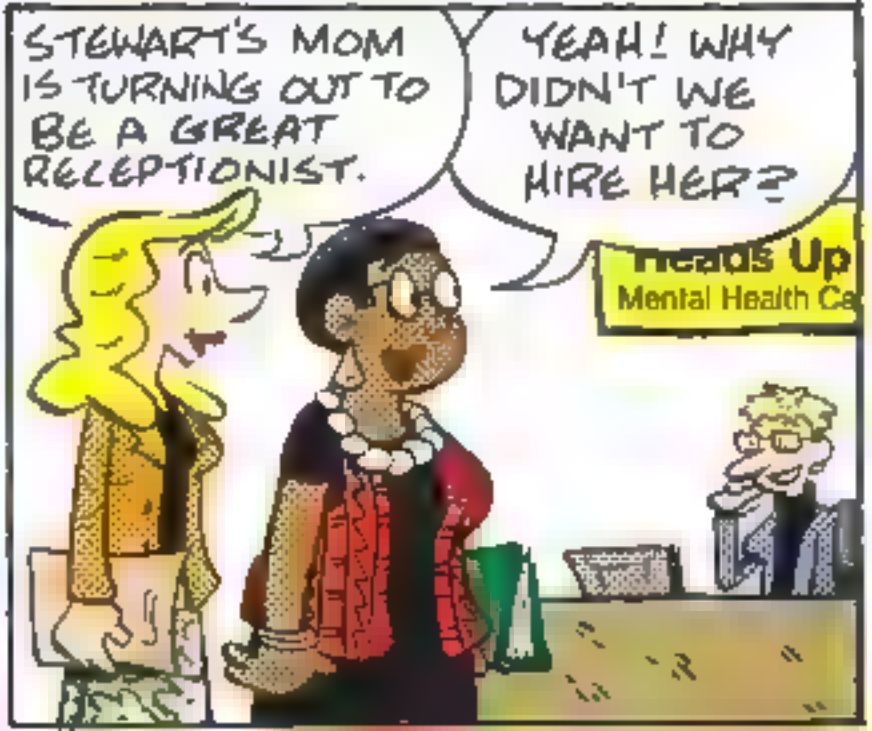


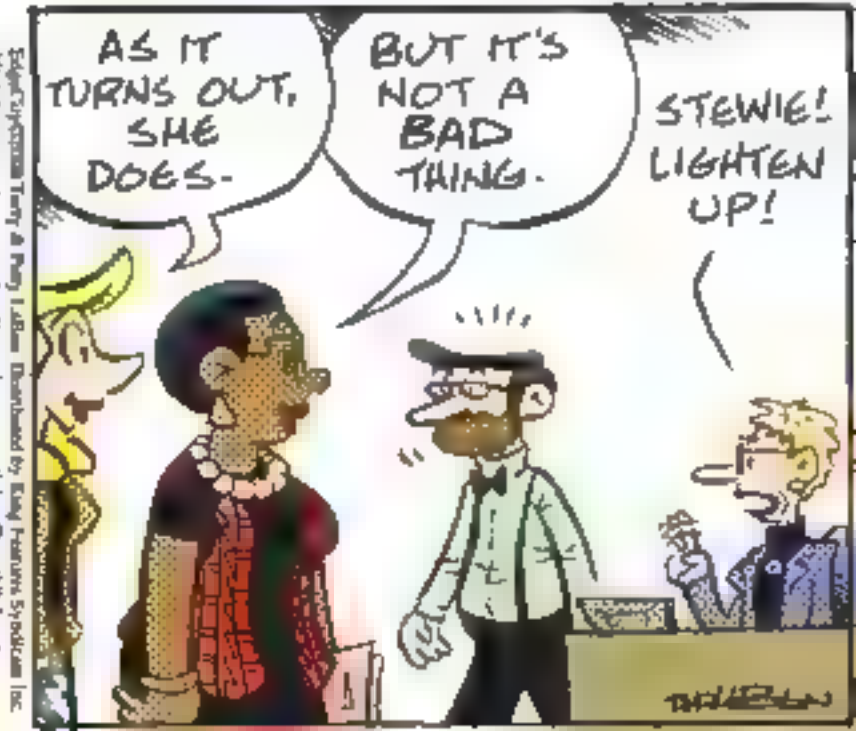



I WAS RELUCTANT TO HIRE STEWART'S MOM TO BE OUR RECEPTIONIST. BUT SHE'S WORKING OUT PRETTY WELL.
I KNOW!
sads Up
ental Health

SHE PULLED ALL THE FILES FOR THE WEEK, ENTERED THE BILLING, REORGANIZED THE MAILBOXES...


...AND THEN SHE WENT HOME AND BAKED!
MANDEL-BREAD, HON?





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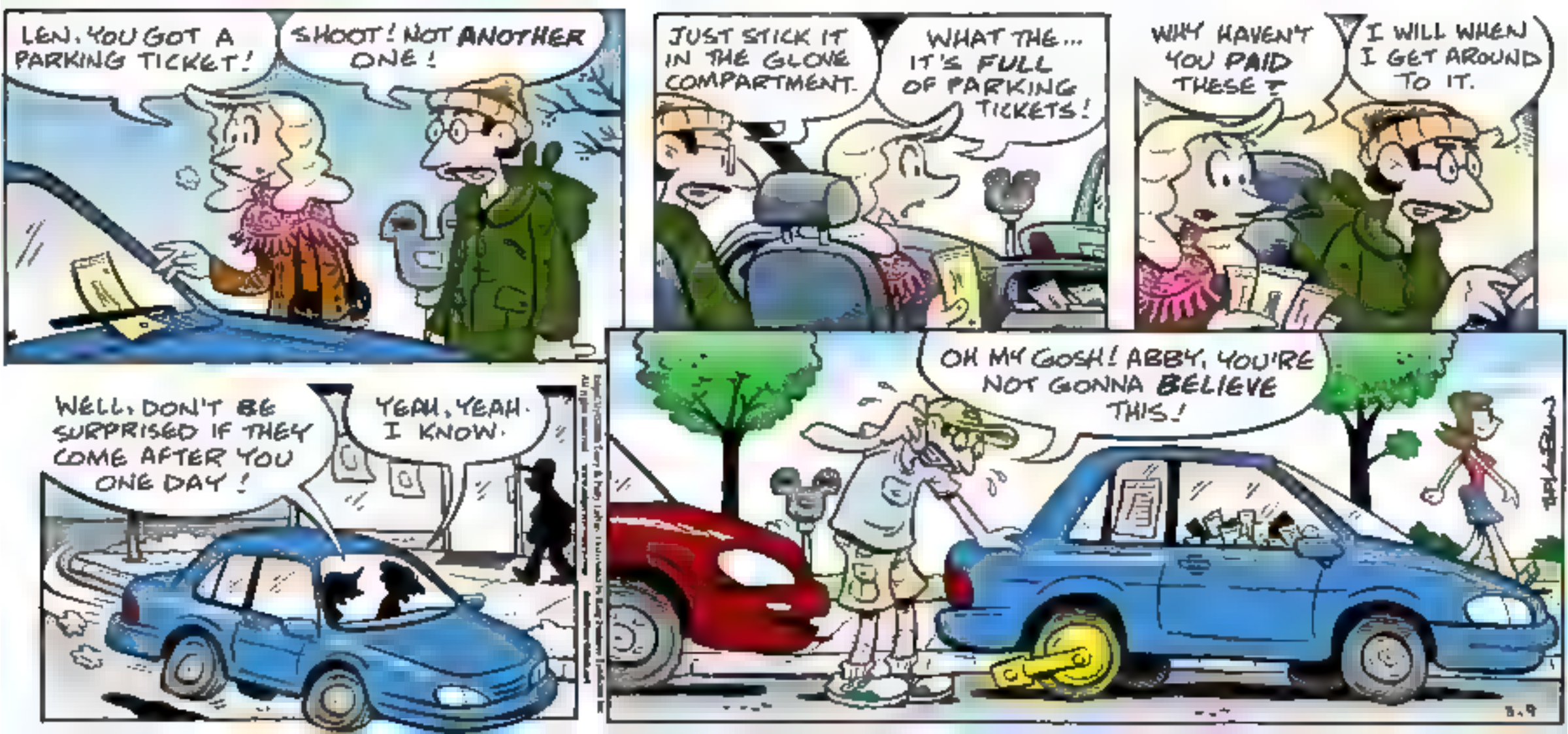
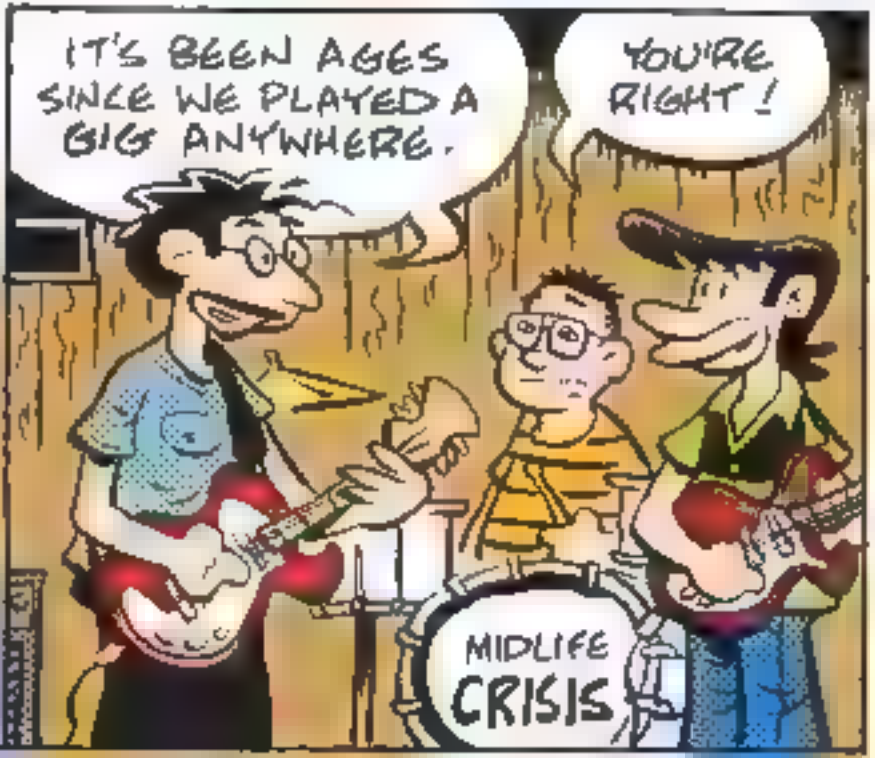

LEN, YOU GOT A PARKING TICKET!
SHOOT! NOT ANOTHER ONE!
JUST STICK IT IN THE GLOVE COMPARTMENT.
WHAT THE... IT'S FULL OF PARKING TICKETS!
WHY HAVEN'T YOU PAID THESE?
I WILL WHEN I GET AROUND TO IT.
WELL, DON'T BE SURPRISED IF THEY COME AFTER YOU ONE DAY!
YEAH, YEAH. I KNOW.
OH MY GOSH! ABBY, YOU'RE NOT GONNA BELIEVE THIS!



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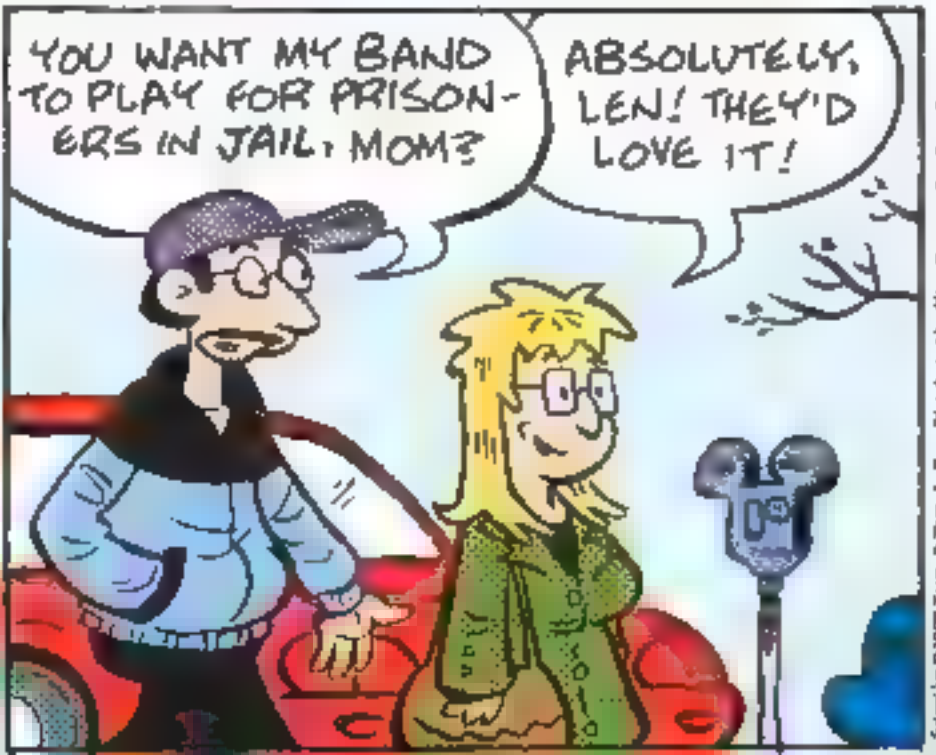

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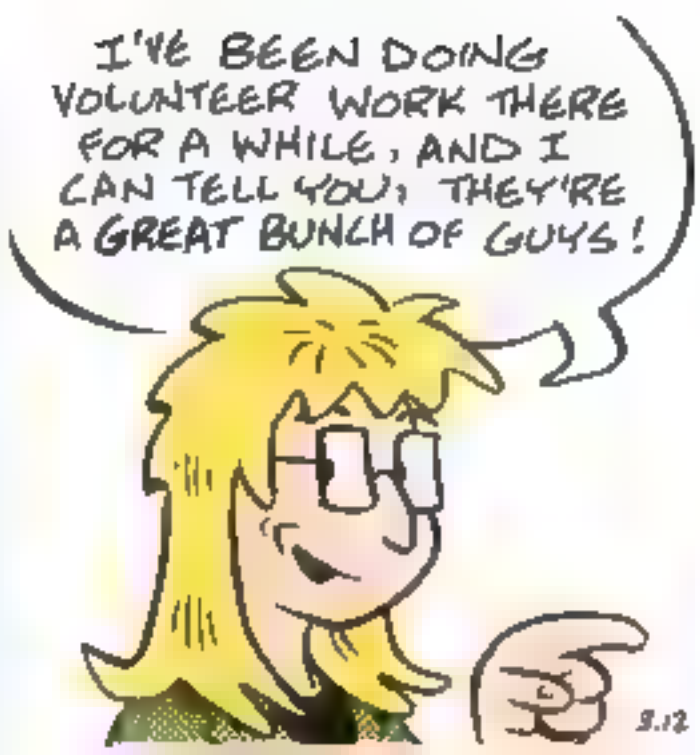
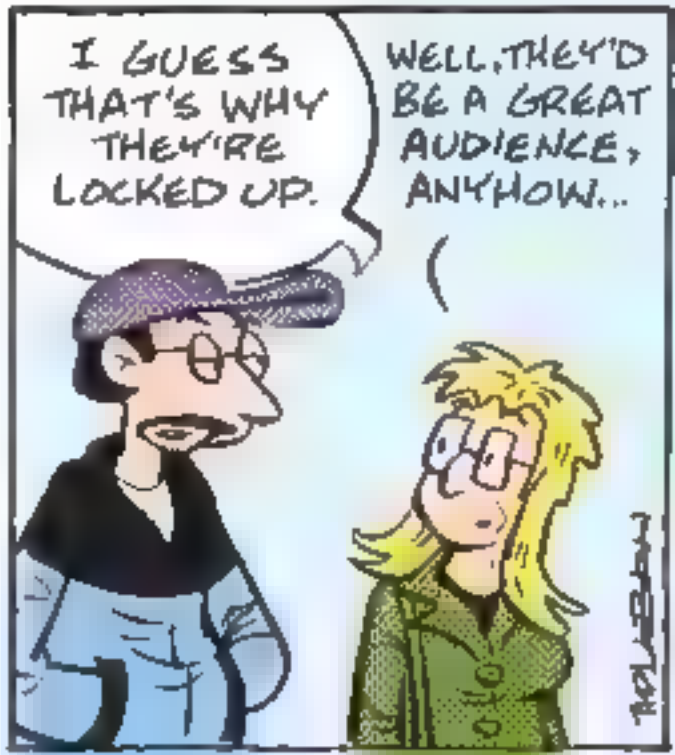




MY MOM ASKED ME IF WE'D BE INTERESTED IN PLAYING A GIG WHERE SHE VOLUNTEERS.
IT WOULDN'T PAY ANYTHING. BUT IT'D BE NICE JUST TO HAVE AN AUDIENCE.
TRUE. WHERE IS IT?
JAIL!
HEY, JOHNNY CASH PLAYED IN JAIL!
WAIT! YOU'RE SERIOUS!
3-13

YOU WANT US TO PLAY IN A JAIL, LEN? ARE YOU SURE WE'D BE SAFE?
MY MOM VOLUNTEERS THERE ALL THE TIME. SHE HASN'T HAD A PROBLEM.
MIDLIF CRISI

NEITHER HAS MY AUNT. SHE TAUGHT IN PRISON FOR YEARS.
YOU'RE PROBABLY RIGHT. I'M SURE THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.

3.14
I JUST WISH I HADN'T WATCHED ALL THOSE EPISODES OF "OZ."
I'M TELLING HER "YES," OK?

WOW-- THAT PRISON LOOKS PRETTY GRIM.
YEAH.
WELL, WE HAVE NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT. THIS IS A GIG LIKE ANY OTHER.
I THINK THIS'LL BE A LITTLE DIFFERENT.
SLAM!
PUT YOUR CLOTHES IN THIS BAG...

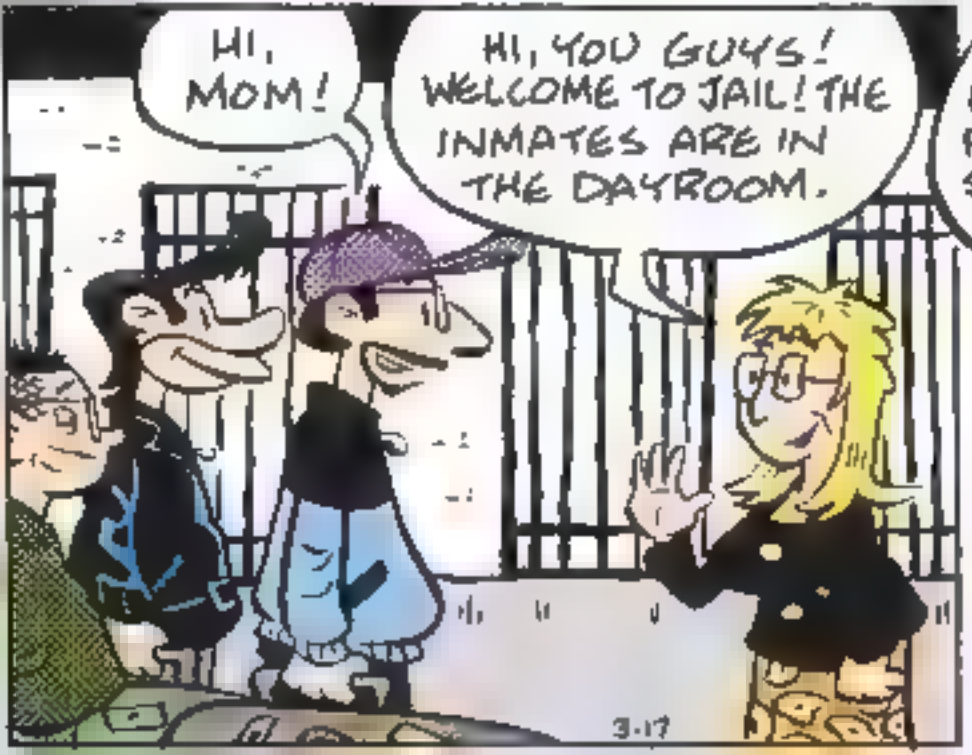
OLD ARMY
BIG BLOW-OUT SALE

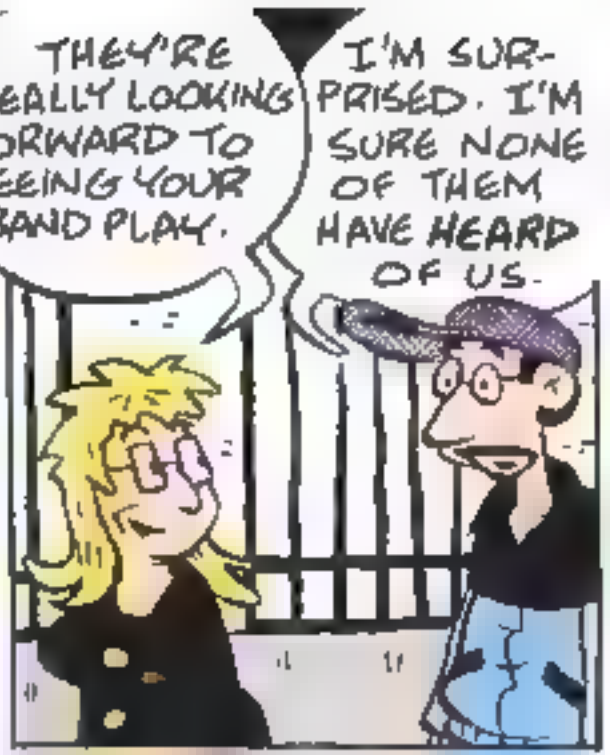
WOW! THESE PANTS ARE JUST $11.99!
70% OFF

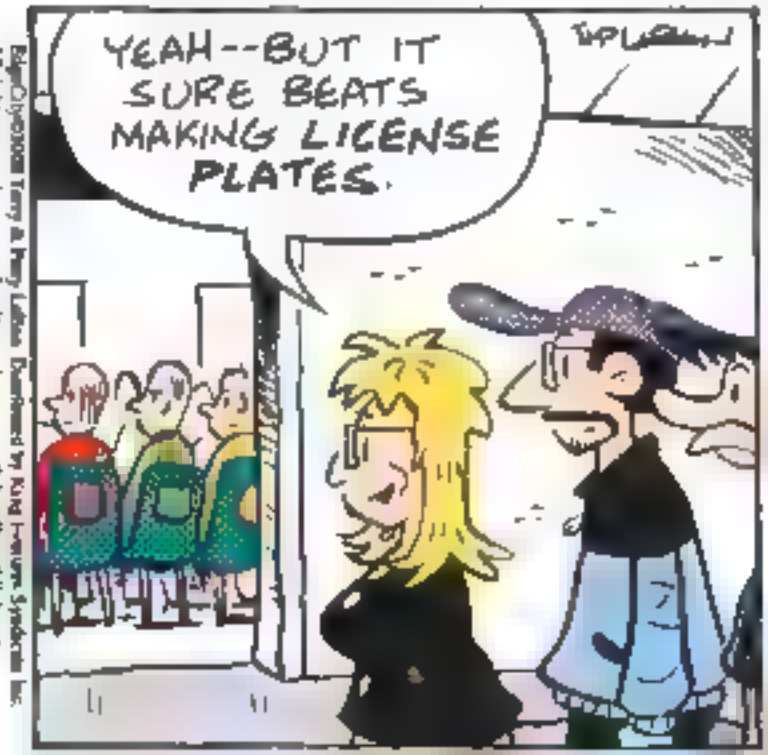
SHIRTS FOR $7.00!
SOCKS FOR $1.99!

HOW CAN I NOT BUY THIS STUFF? THEY'RE PRACTICALLY GIVING IT AWAY!

Y'KNOW, THERE'S A REASON CERTAIN THINGS WIND UP ON CLEARANCE...
BAD BOY







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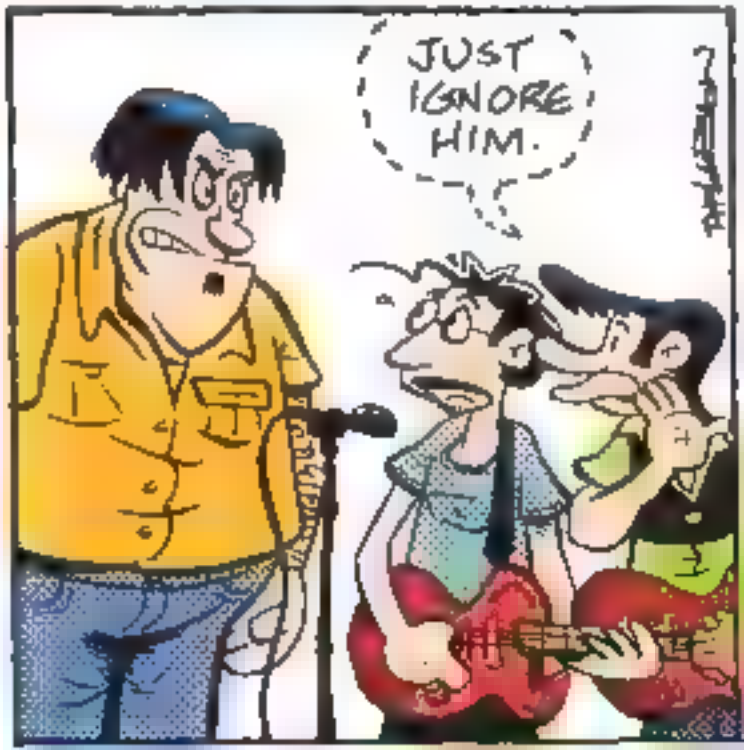
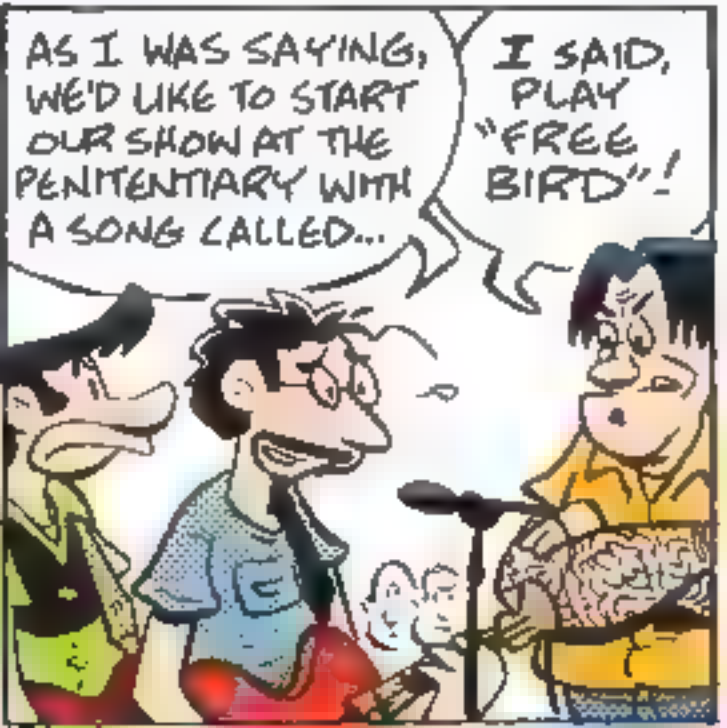
HI, EVERYONE! WE'RE "MIDLIFE CRISIS" AND WE'RE REALLY EXCITED TO BE PLAYING AT THE HORTONVILLE STATE PENITENTIARY!
MIDLIF
CRISI

OUR FIRST NUMBER IS GOING TO BE A TUNE CALLED "MAMA TRIED"...
PLAY "FREE BIRD"!
3-18


JUST IGNORE HIM.



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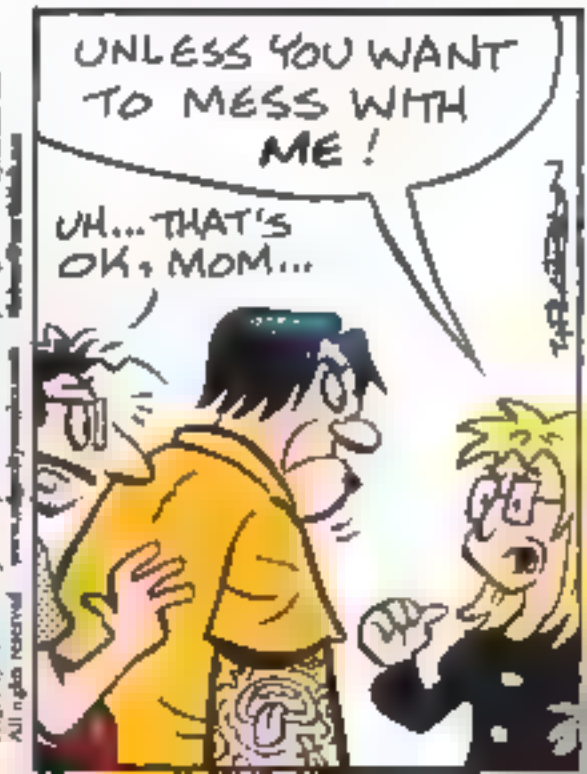
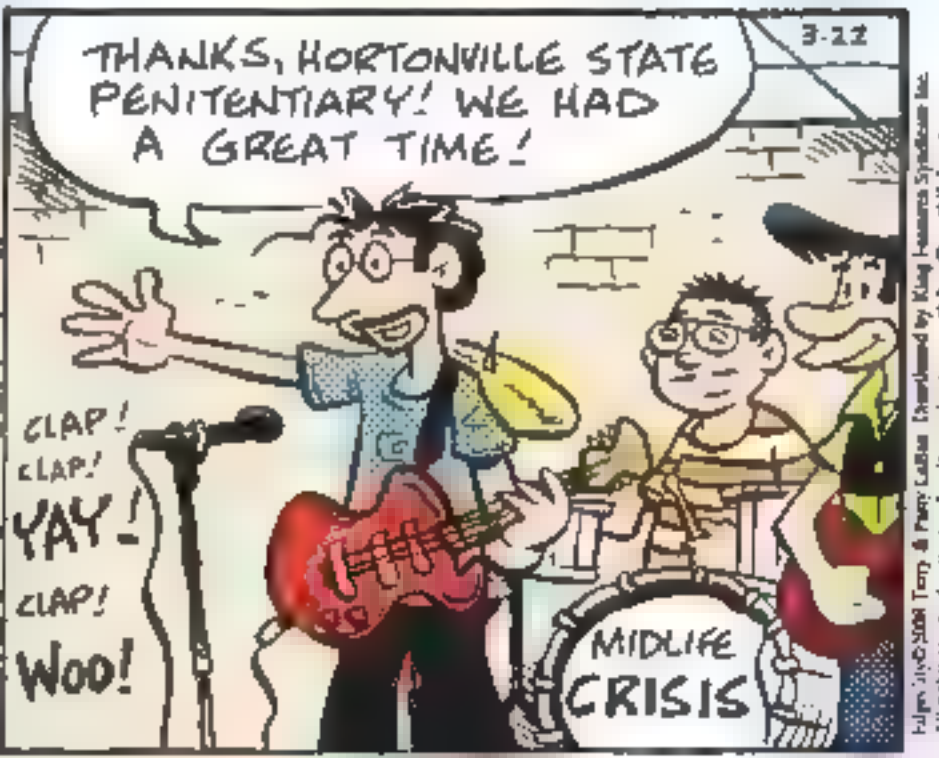


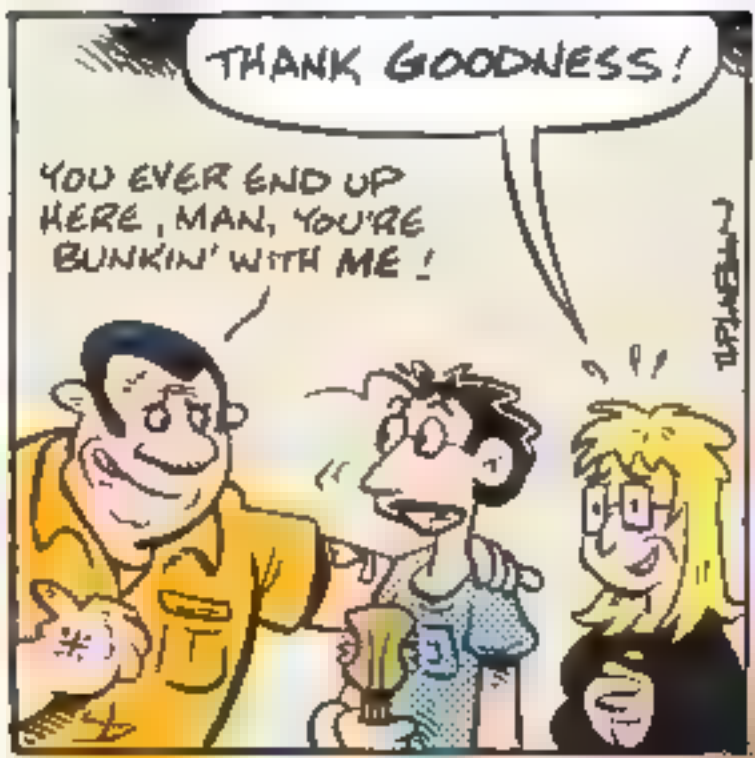
MY SON'S BAND VOLUNTEERED TO PLAY THIS PRISON! NOW YOU SIT AND LISTEN OR GET OUT!
HA! YOU GOT GUTS, MRS. A! BUT YER AN OLD LADY!

WHAT'RE YOU GONNA DO TO US?
NOTHING!
3-21

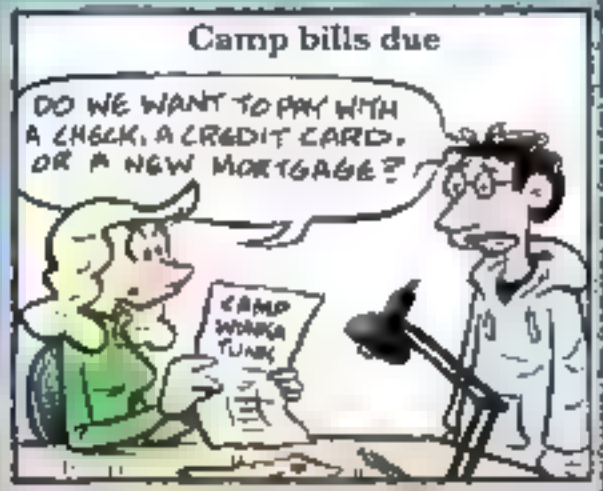
I'LL LEAVE THAT TO MY "HOMIES."
WE WANNA HEAR SOME MUSIC, G!
CRACK!
! !

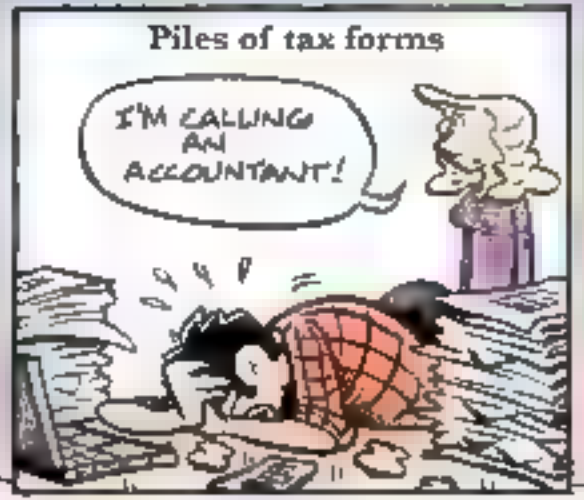

3-22
THANKS, HORTONVILLE STATE PENITENTIARY! WE HAD A GREAT TIME!
CLAP! CLAP! YAY! CLAP! Woo!
MIDLIFE CRISIS

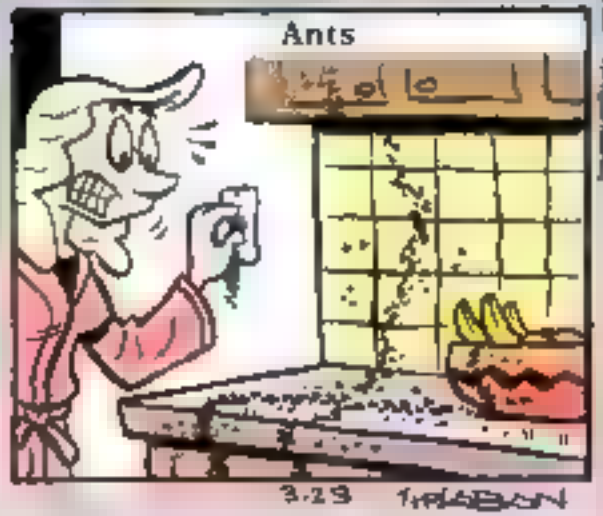
WELL, MOM-- I THINK THAT TURNED OUT PRETTY WELL.
WHAT'D I TELL YOU, LEN? THEY LOVED IT!

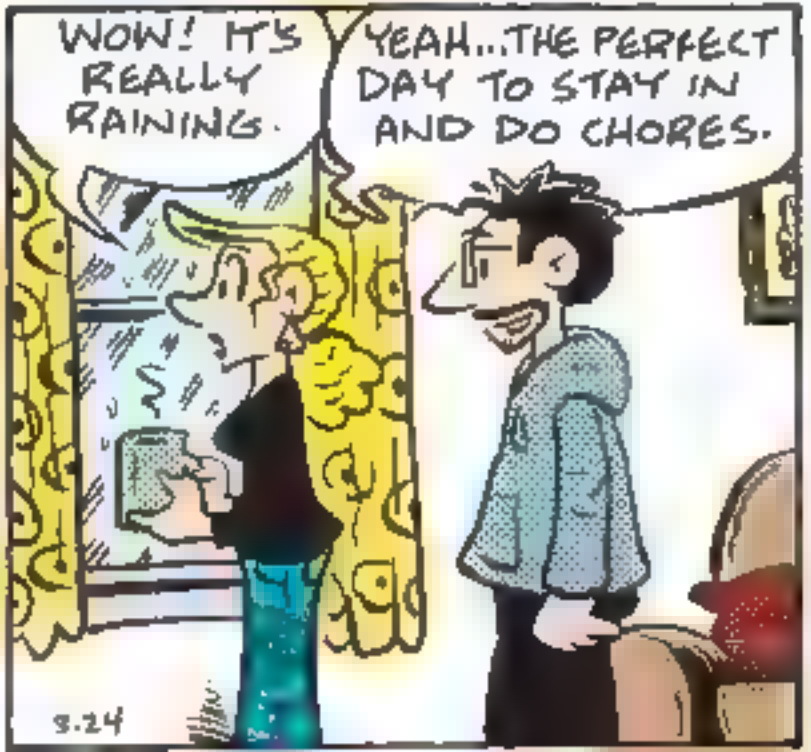

THANK GOODNESS!
YOU EVER END UP HERE, MAN, YOU'RE BUNKIN' WITH ME!

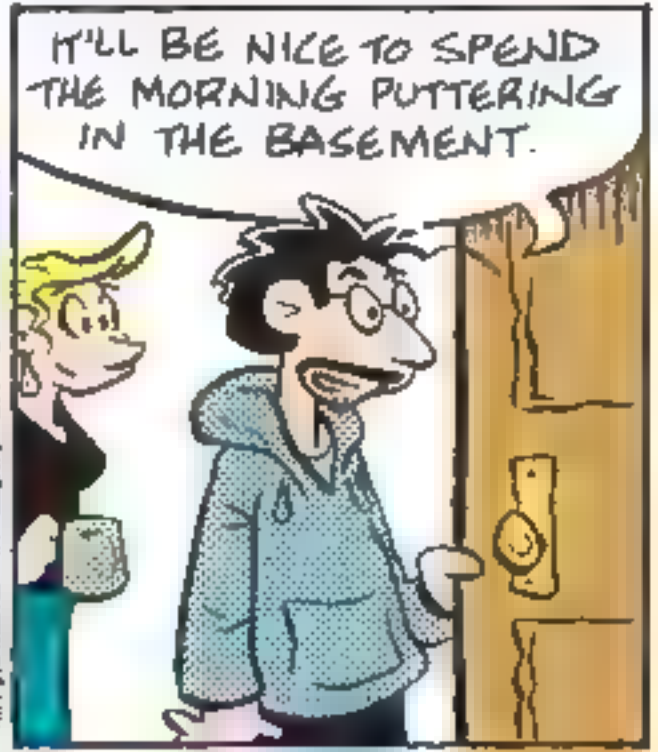
Signs of SPRING

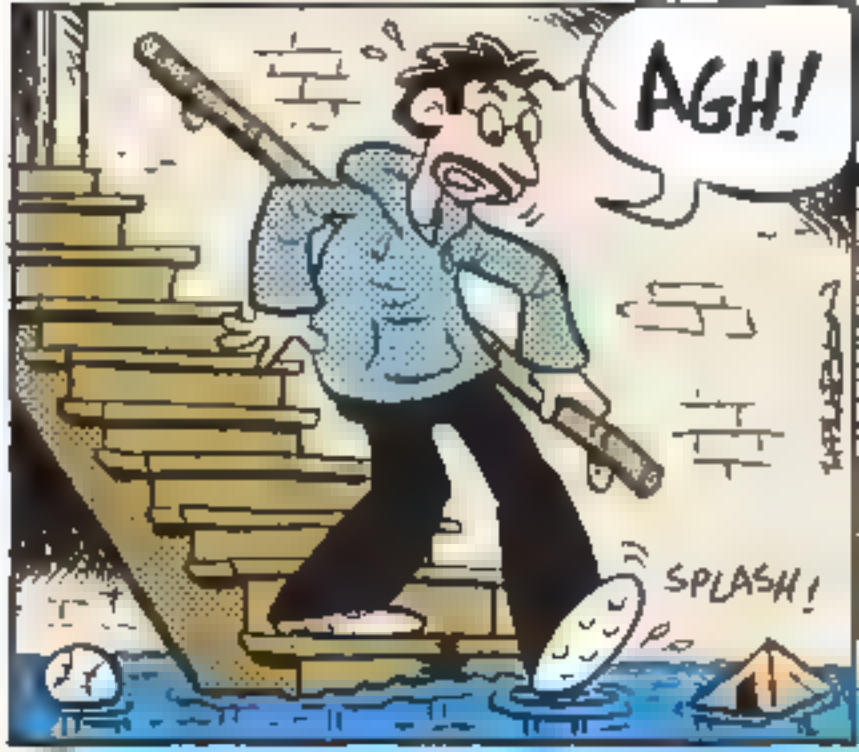


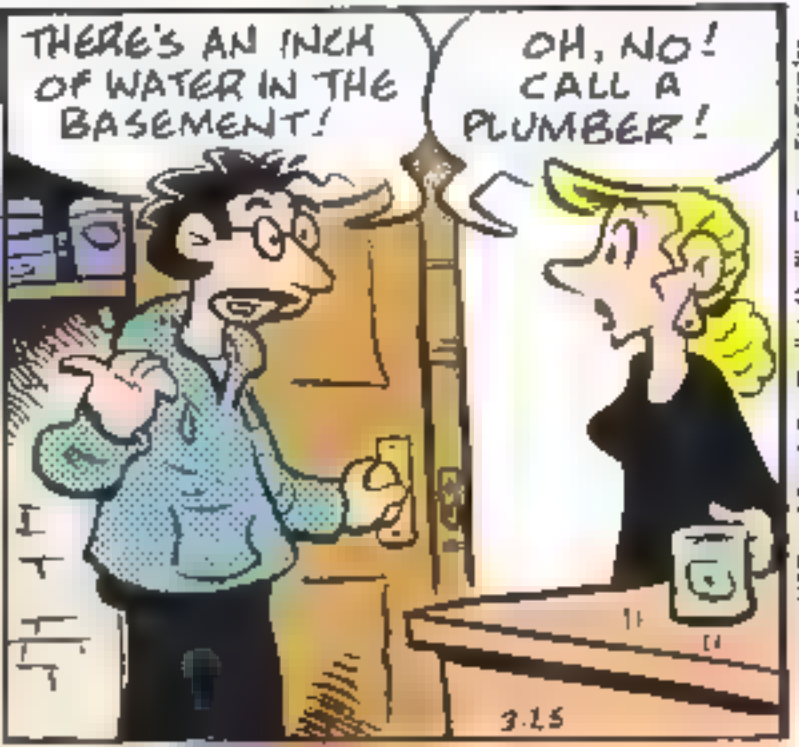





WOW! IT'S REALLY RAINING.
YEAH...THE PERFECT DAY TO STAY IN AND DO CHORES.
3.24


IT'LL BE NICE TO SPEND THE MORNING PUTTERING IN THE BASEMENT.


AGH!
SPLASH!



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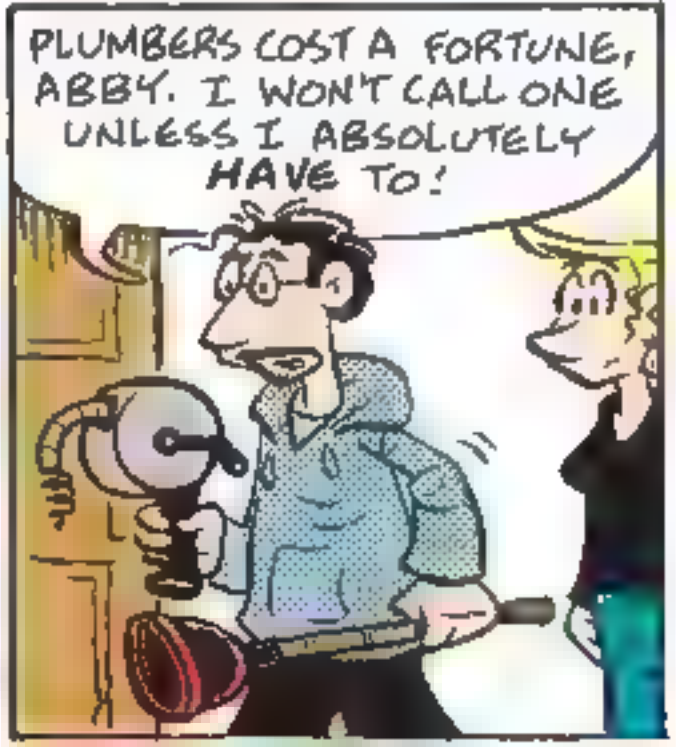
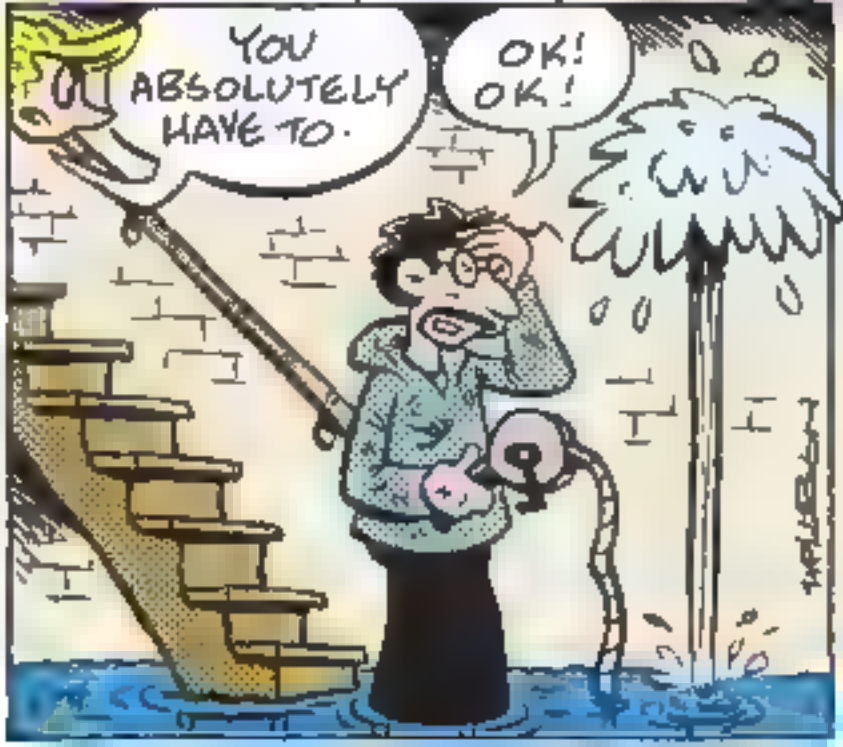
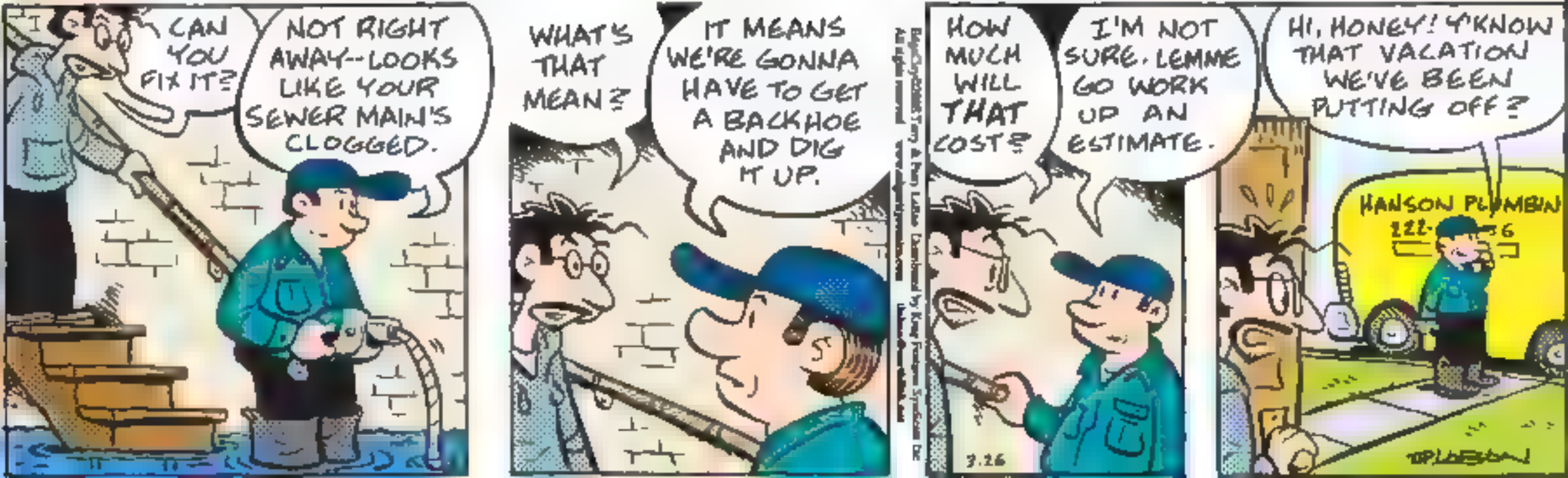
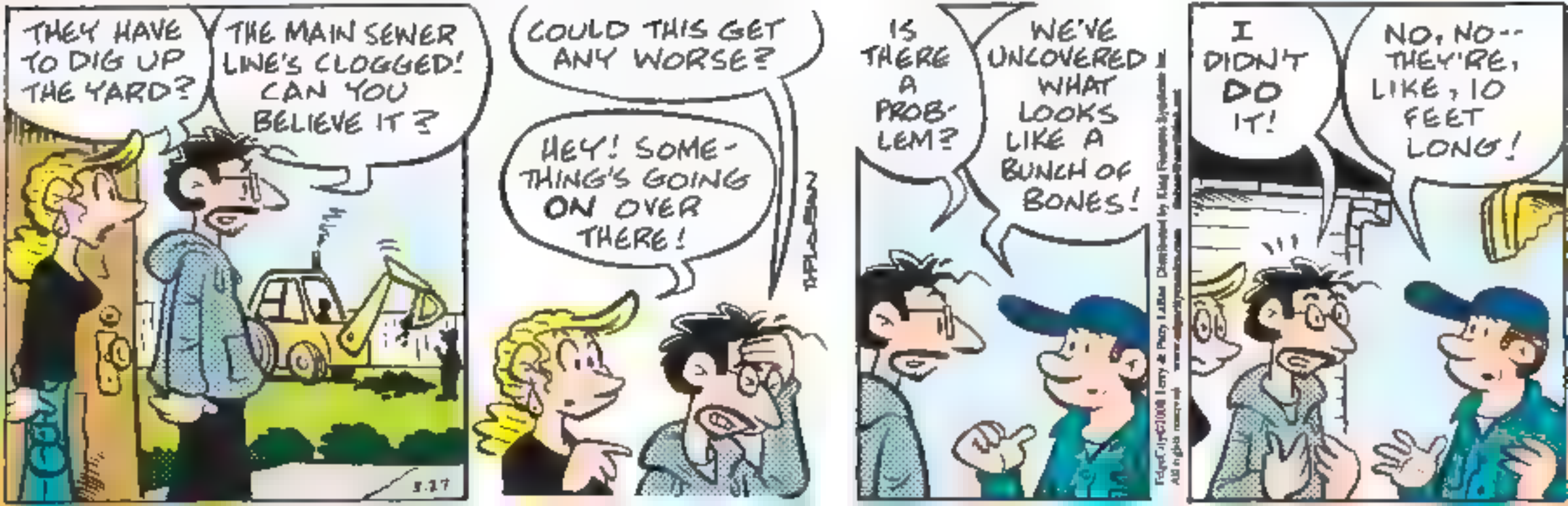
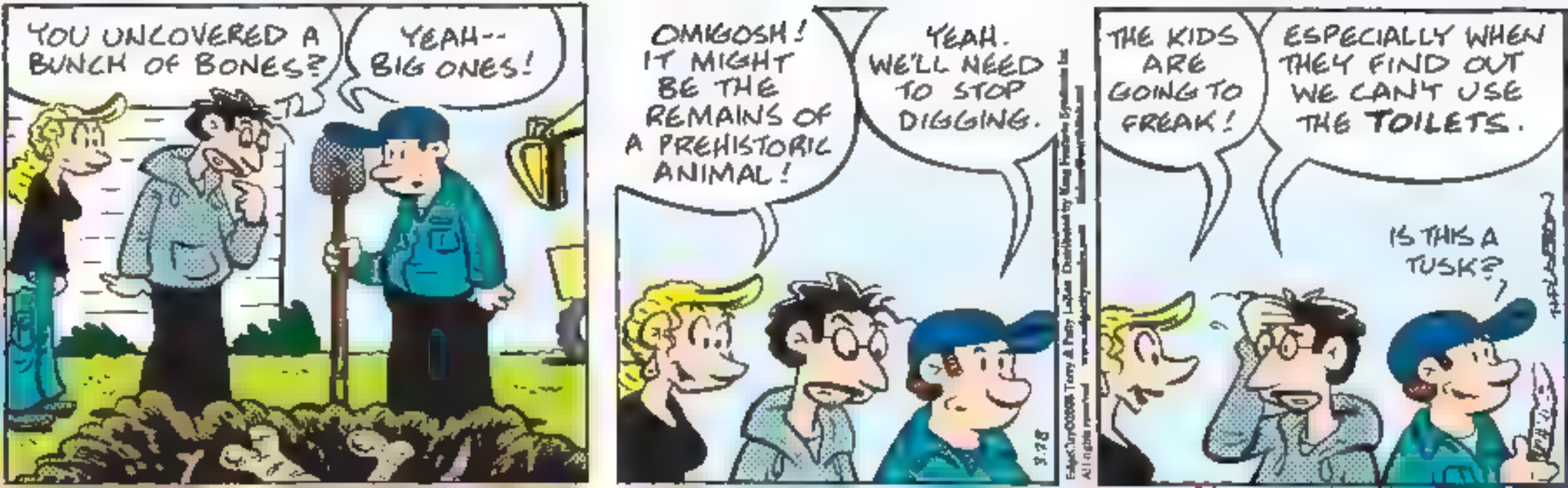
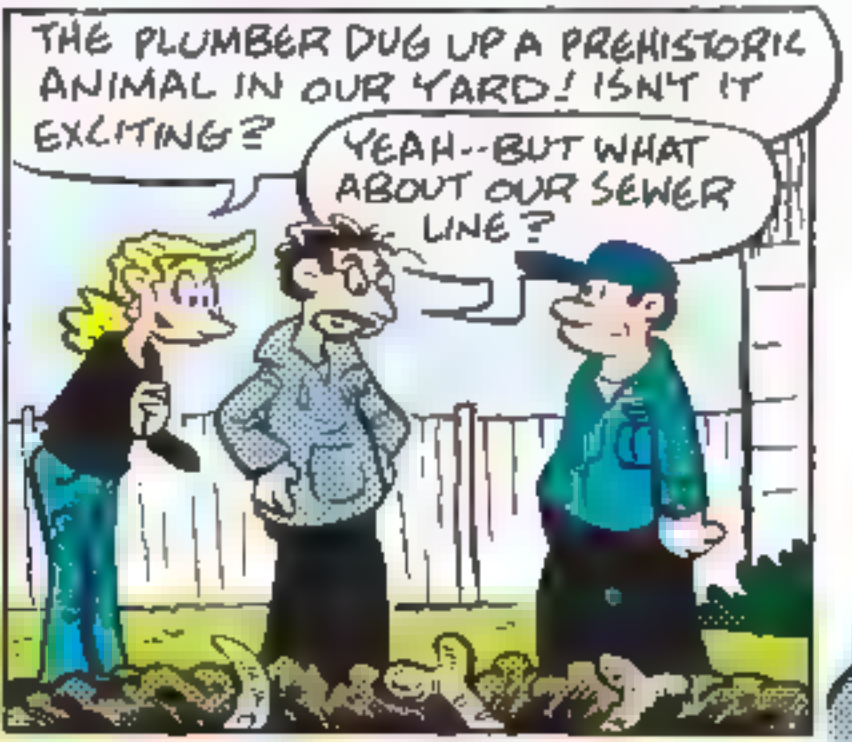





CAN YOU FIX IT?
NOT RIGHT AWAY--LOOKS LIKE YOUR SEWER MAIN'S CLOGGED.
WHAT'S THAT MEAN?
IT MEANS WE'RE GONNA HAVE TO GET A BACKHOE AND DIG IT UP.
HOW MUCH WILL THAT COST?
I'M NOT SURE. LEMME GO WORK UP AN ESTIMATE.
HI, HONEY! Y'KNOW THAT VACATION WE'VE BEEN PUTTING OFF?
HANSON PLUMBIN
222-
3.26

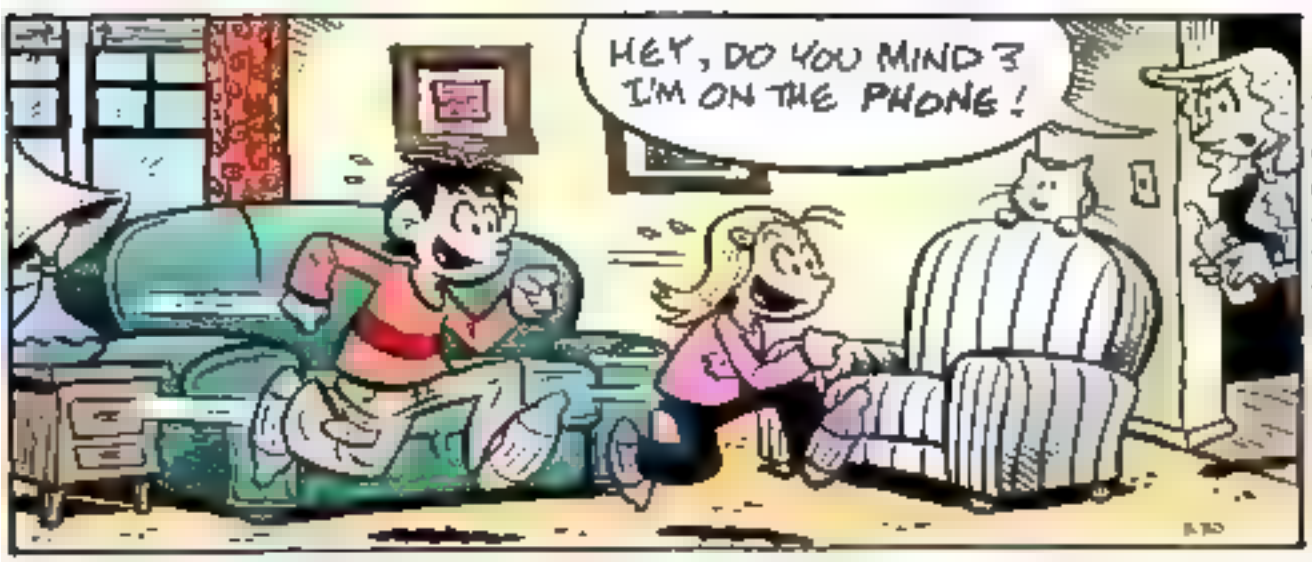

THEY HAVE TO DIG UP THE YARD?
THE MAIN SEWER LINE'S CLOGGED! CAN YOU BELIEVE IT?
COULD THIS GET ANY WORSE?
HEY! SOMETHING'S GOING ON OVER THERE!
IS THERE A PROBLEM?
WE'VE UNCOVERED WHAT LOOKS LIKE A BUNCH OF BONES!
I DIDN'T DO IT!
NO, NO-- THEY'RE, LIKE, 10 FEET LONG!


YOU UNCOVERED A BUNCH OF BONES?
YEAH-- BIG ONES!
OMGOSH! IT MIGHT BE THE REMAINS OF A PREHISTORIC ANIMAL!
YEAH. WE'LL NEED TO STOP DIGGING.
THE KIDS ARE GOING TO FREAK!
ESPECIALLY WHEN THEY FIND OUT WE CAN'T USE THE TOILETS.
IS THIS A TUSK?


THE PLUMBER DUG UP A PREHISTORIC ANIMAL IN OUR YARD! ISN'T IT EXCITING?
YEAH--BUT WHAT ABOUT OUR SEWER LINE?

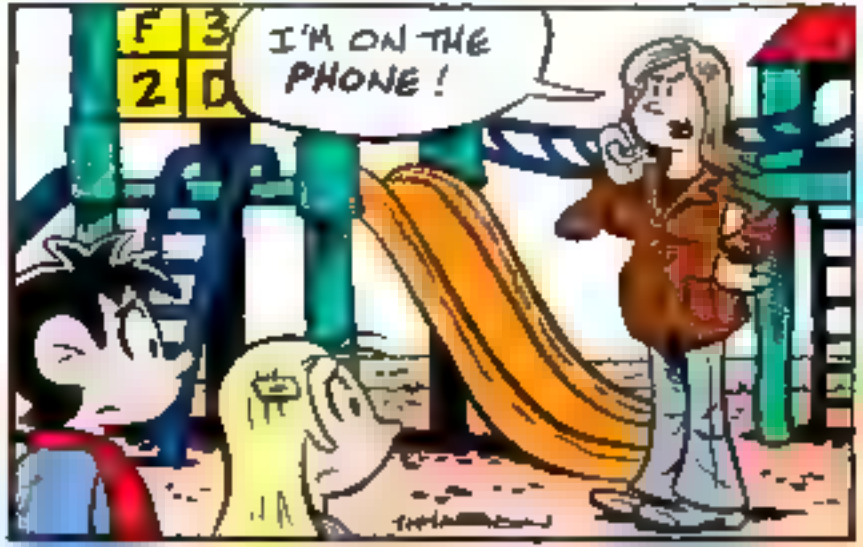
THERE ARE LAWS ABOUT THIS KIND OF THING. WE CAN'T CONTINUE WORK 'TIL THE STATE SAYS IT'S OK.
IN THE MEAN-TIME, WHAT'LL WE DO FOR TOILETS?

LEN! THERE'S A NEWS CREW OUT FRONT!
POTTY PAL
3.29

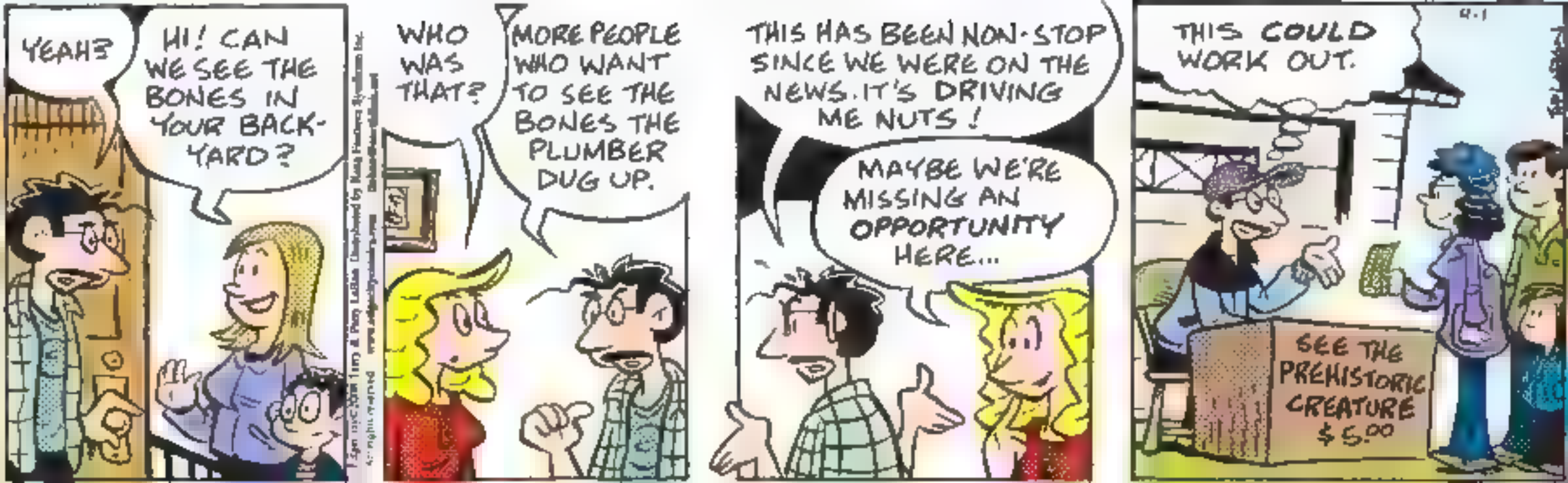

HEY, DO YOU MIND? I'M ON THE PHONE!

IF YOU WANT TO RUN AROUND LIKE THAT, WHY DON'T YOU GO TO THE PARK?

HEY, DO YOU MIND?


I'M ON THE PHONE!

THIS IS CHANNEL 5 NEWS AT THE HOME OF LEN AND ABBY ARDIN, WHERE PLUMBERS REPAIRING A SEWER LINE HAVE FOUND WHAT SEEM TO BE THE BONES OF A PREHISTORIC BEAST!
ANY COMMENT, ABBY?
IT'S INCREDIBLE TO THINK THAT THIS ANIMAL ONCE ROAMED OUR PROPERTY!
AND THAT THOUSANDS OF YEARS LATER IT'S KEEPING US FROM USING OUR TOILETS.
CUT!
TERRY LABAN


YEAH?
HI! CAN WE SEE THE BONES IN YOUR BACK-YARD?
WHO WAS THAT?
MORE PEOPLE WHO WANT TO SEE THE BONES THE PLUMBER DUG UP.
THIS HAS BEEN NON-STOP SINCE WE WERE ON THE NEWS. IT'S DRIVING ME NUTS!
MAYBE WE'RE MISSING AN OPPORTUNITY HERE...
THIS COULD WORK OUT.
SEE THE PREHISTORIC CREATURE $5.00

MR. ARDIN? I'M FROM THE STATE PALEONTOLOGY DEPARTMENT.
FINALLY! THE BONES ARE OUT BACK.
WOW! LOOKS LIKE WE MAY HAVE A MASTODON ON OUR HANDS!
WELL, DIG IT UP A.S.A.P.! WE NEED TO FINISH FIXING OUR SEWER LINE!
YOU CAN'T RUSH SCIENCE. THIS IS GOING TO TAKE A COUPLE OF WEEKS.
A COUPLE OF WEEKS?!
4.2
SOB!
I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL-- THIS IS SO EXCITING!

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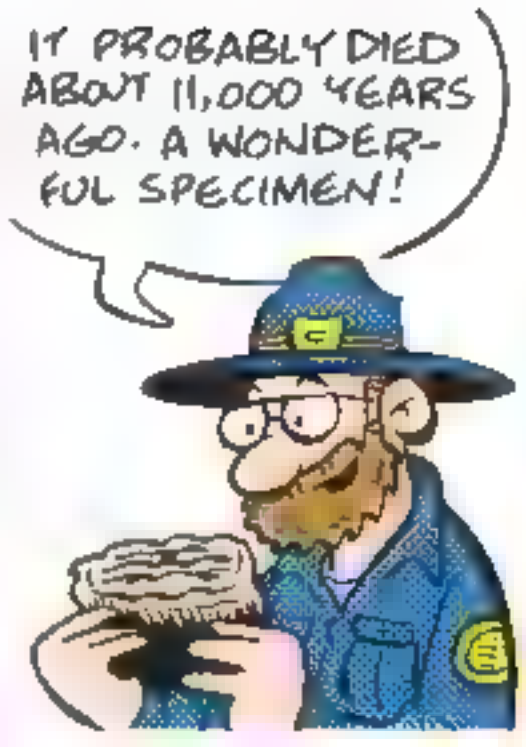
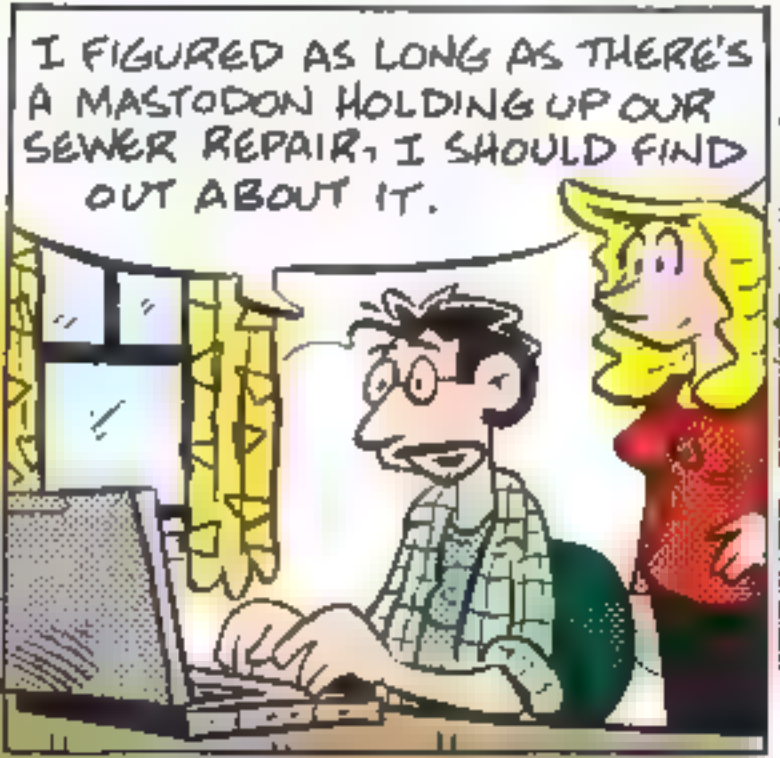
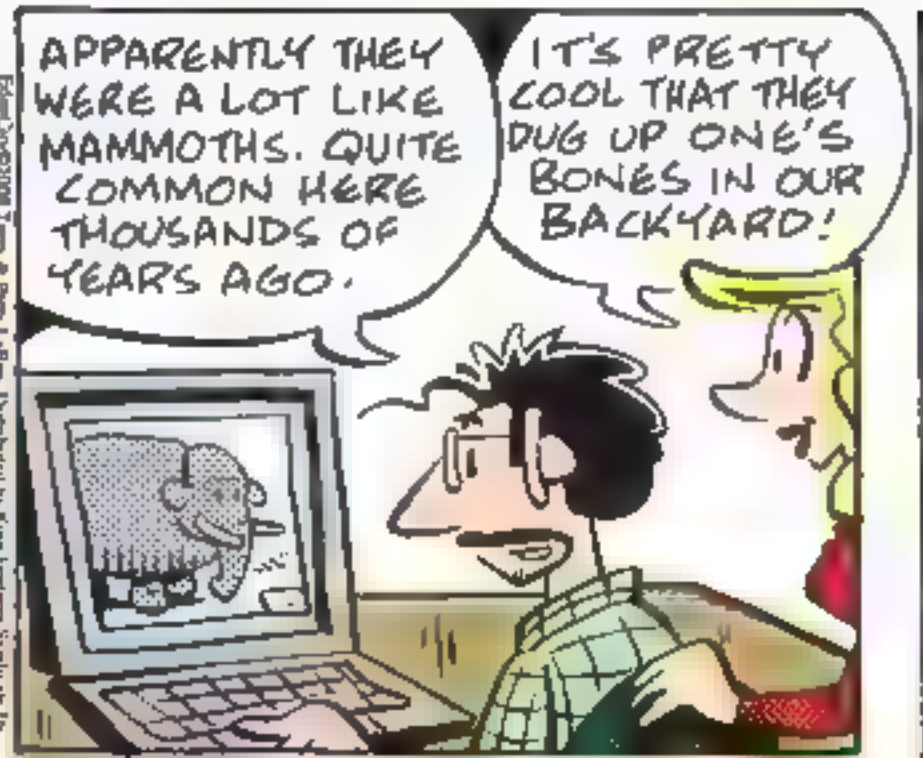
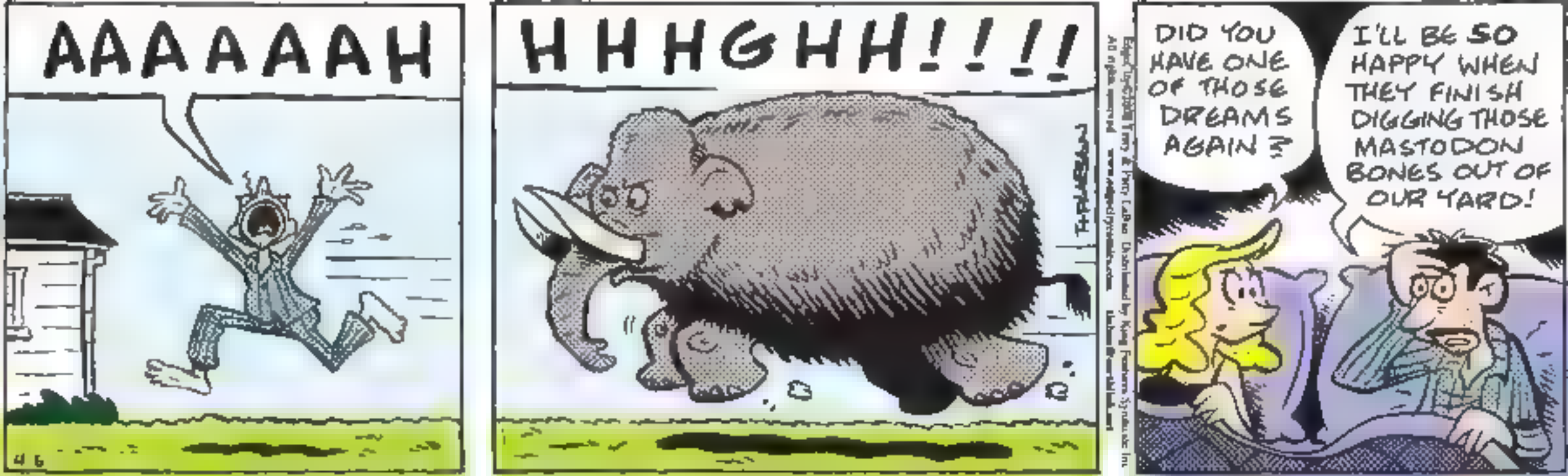


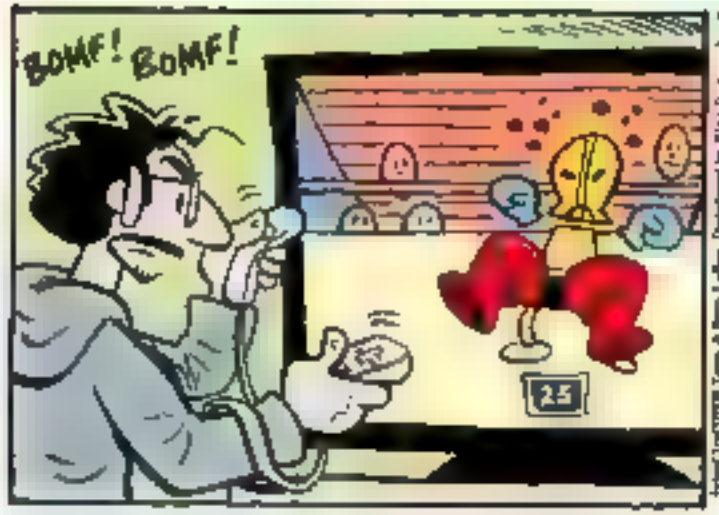

I FIGURED AS LONG AS THERE'S A MASTODON HOLDING UP OUR SEWER REPAIR, I SHOULD FIND OUT ABOUT IT.

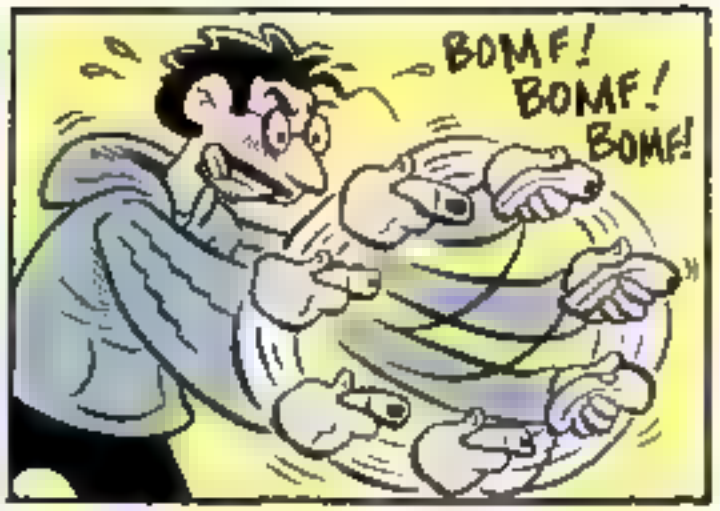

APPARENTLY THEY WERE A LOT LIKE MAMMOTHS. QUITE COMMON HERE THOUSANDS OF YEARS AGO.
IT'S PRETTY COOL THAT THEY DUG UP ONE'S BONES IN OUR BACKYARD!

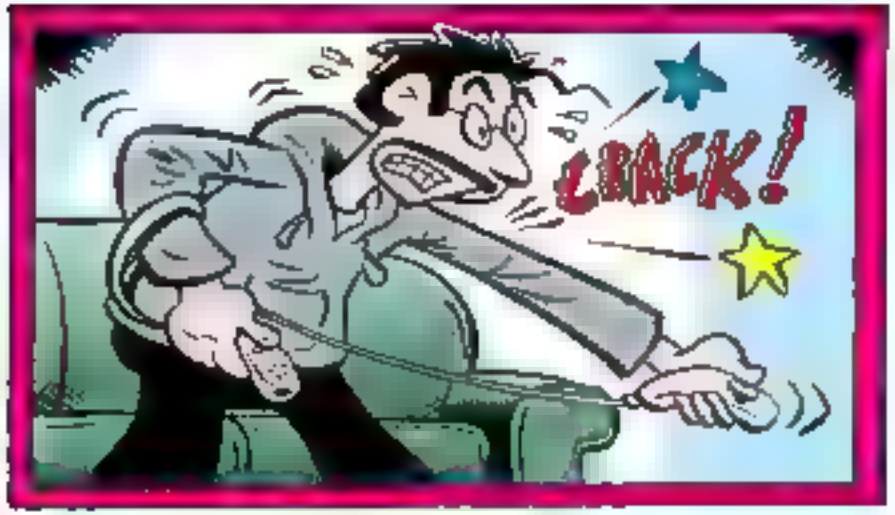
I'D THINK IT WAS COOLER IF THEY'D DUG IT UP NEXT DOOR.
I'M GOING ACROSS THE STREET TO USE THE BATHROOM.

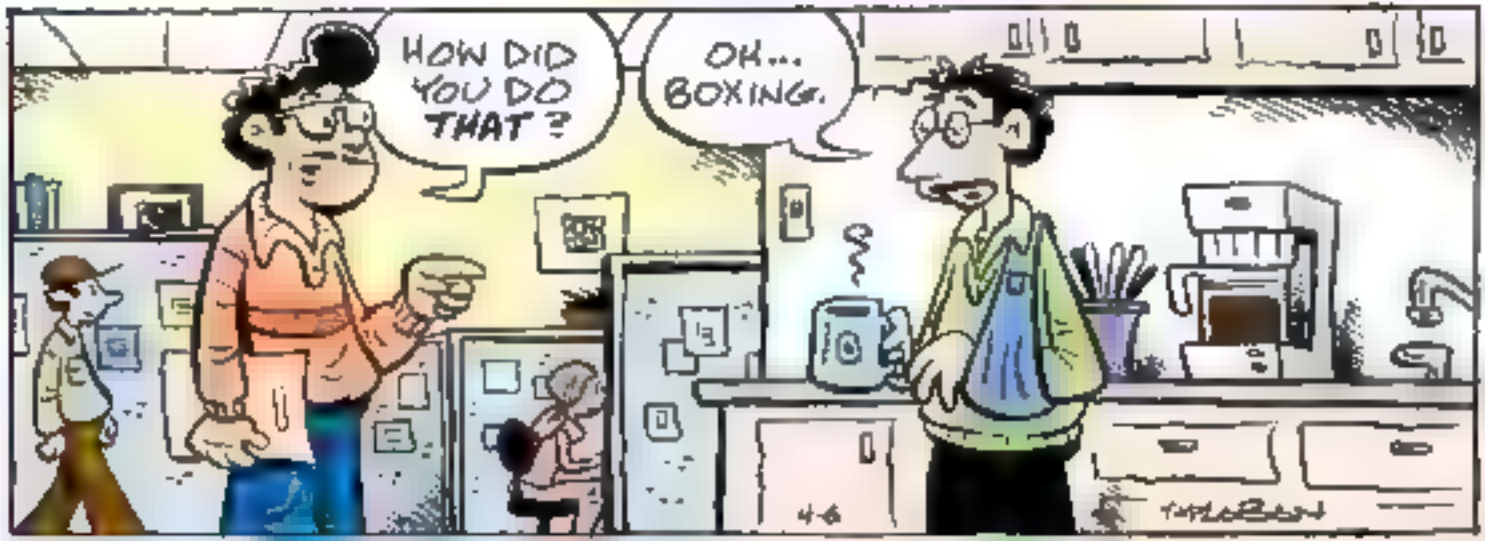

AAAAAAH
HHHGHH!!!!
DID YOU HAVE ONE OF THOSE DREAMS AGAIN?
I'LL BE SO HAPPY WHEN THEY FINISH DIGGING THOSE MASTODON BONES OUT OF OUR YARD!

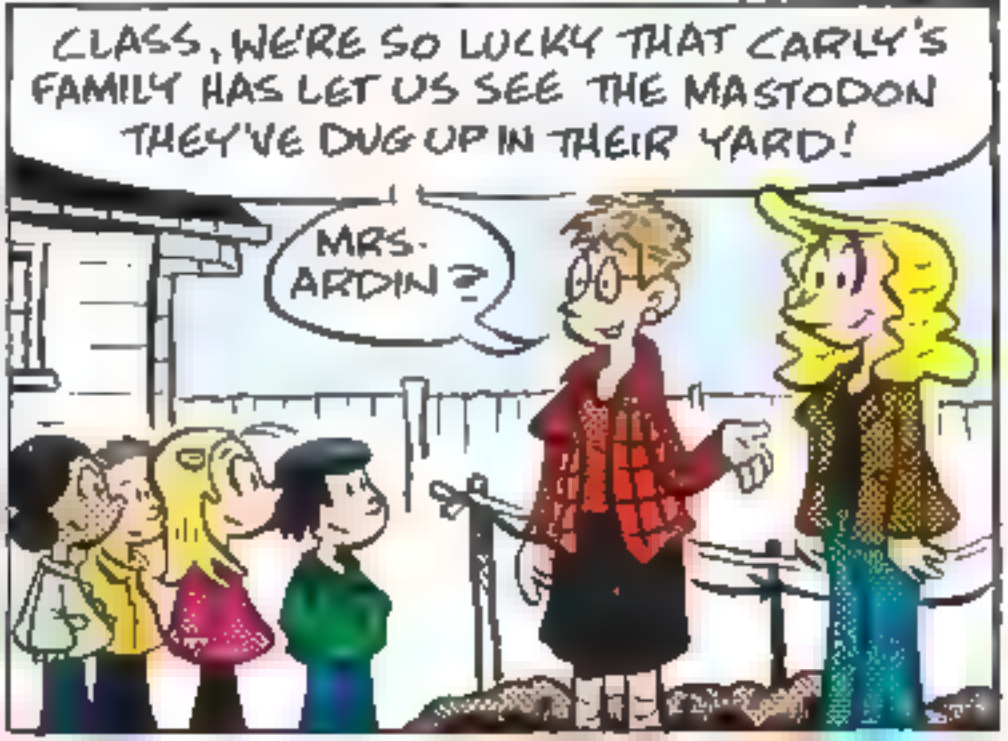
BOMF!
BOMF!


BOMF! BOMF!
25


BOMF!
BOMF!
BOMF!


CRACK!


HOW DID YOU DO THAT?
OH... BOXING.
4-6



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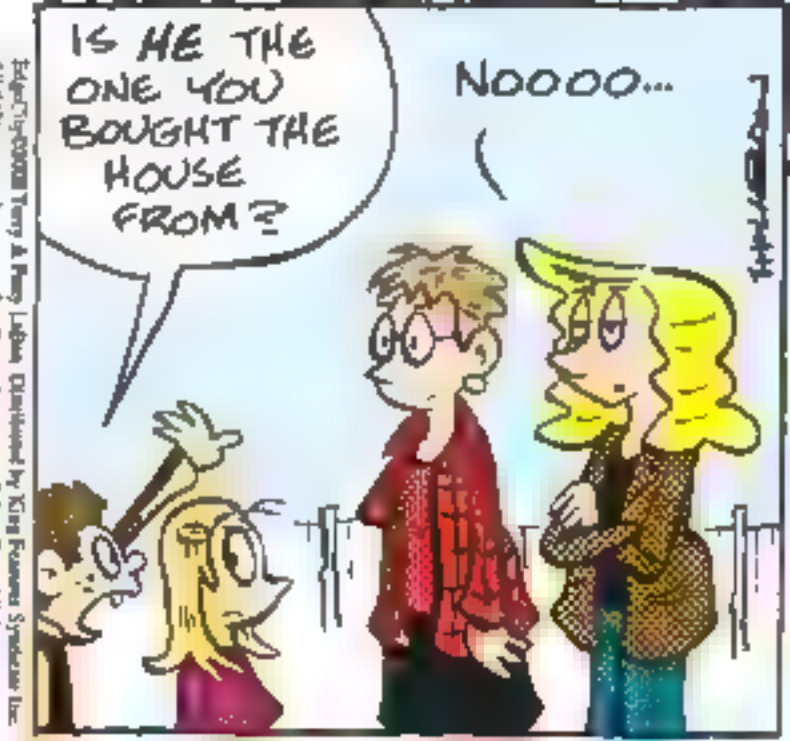

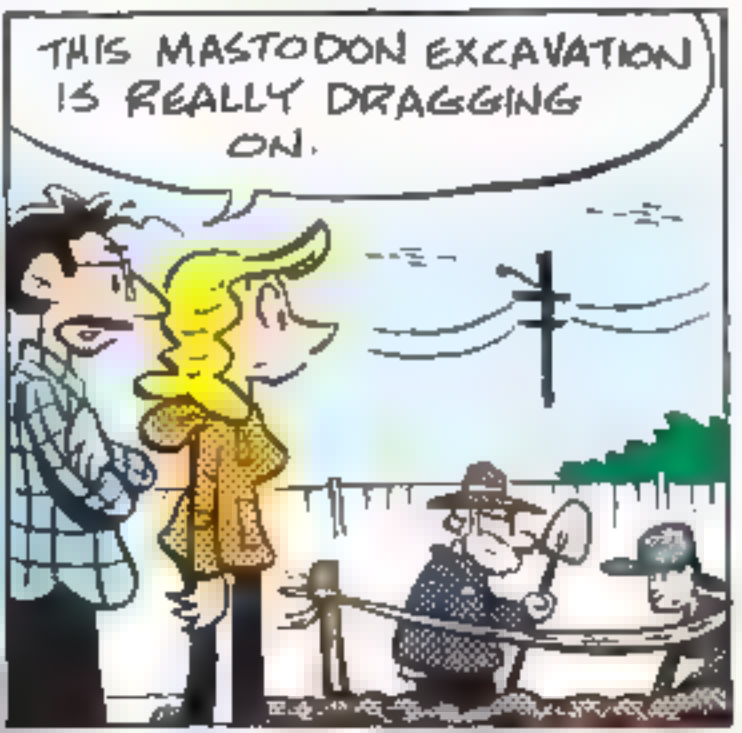

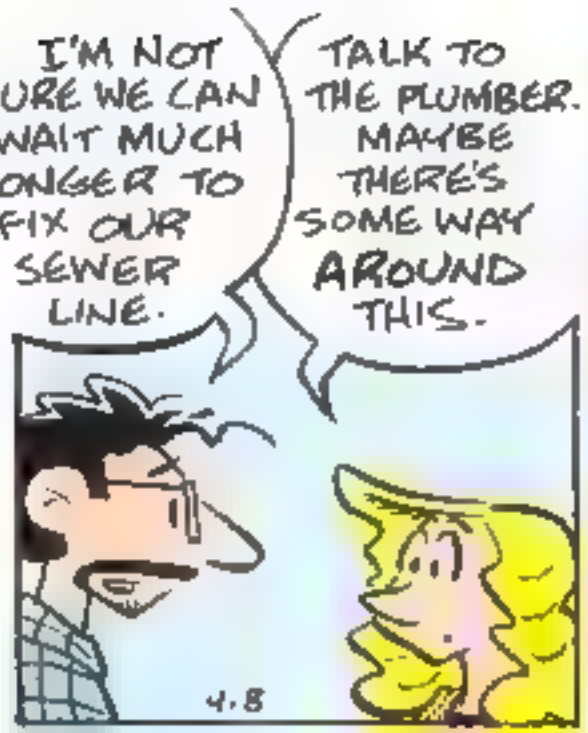

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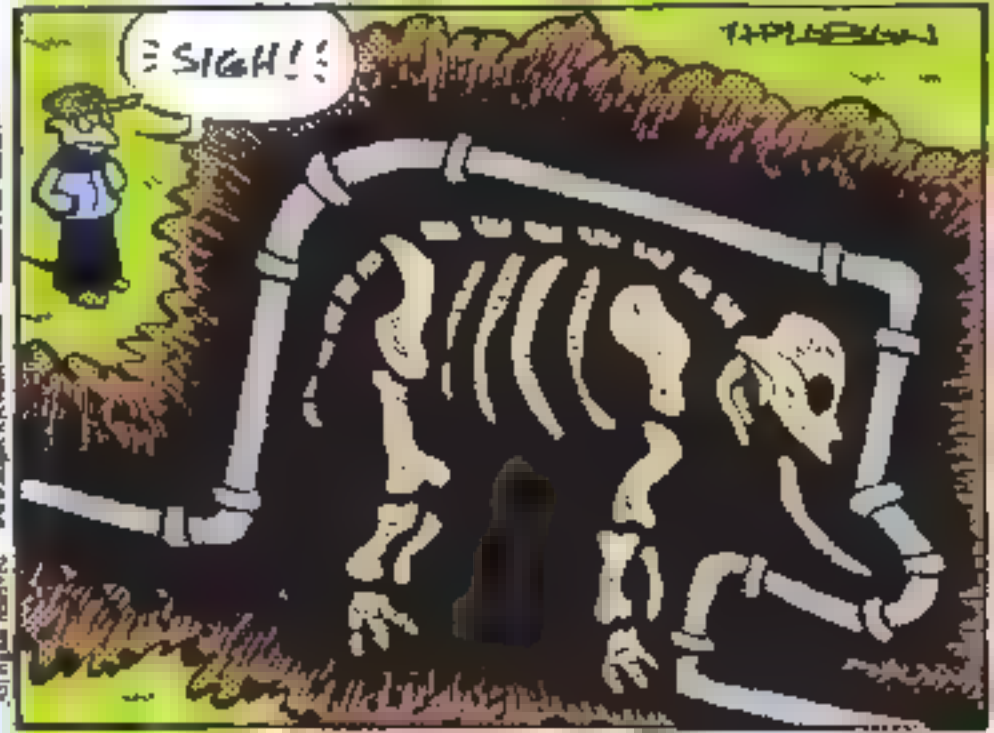
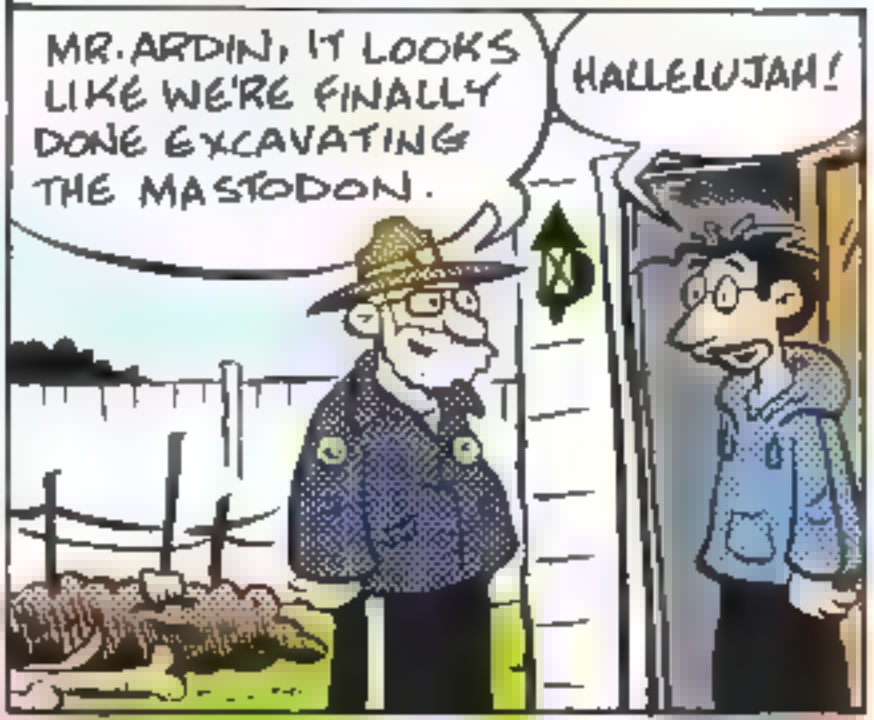
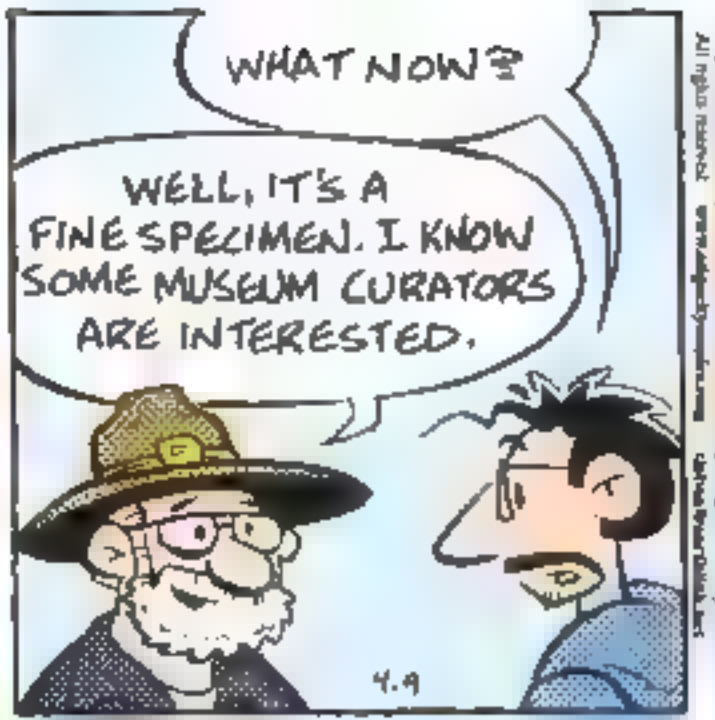
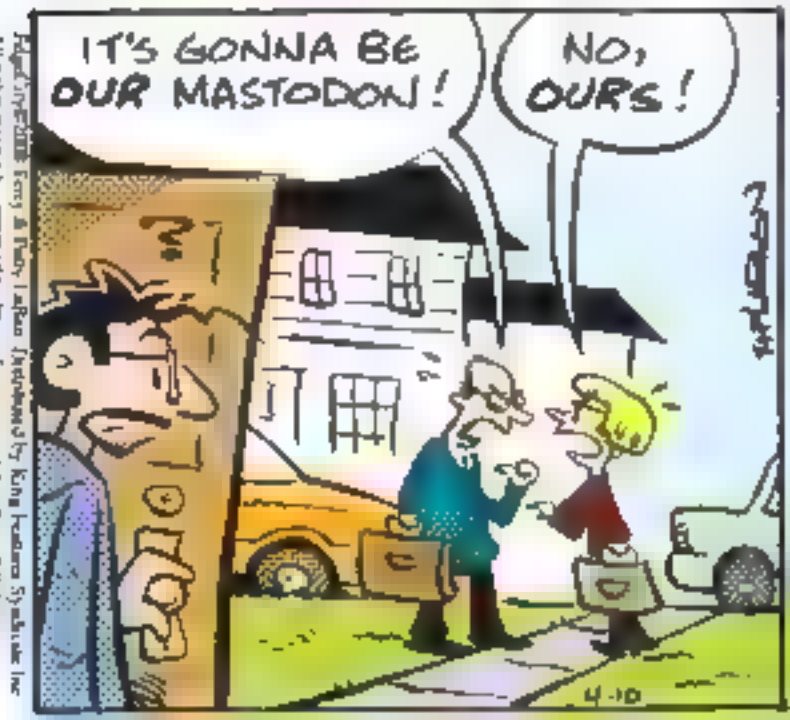
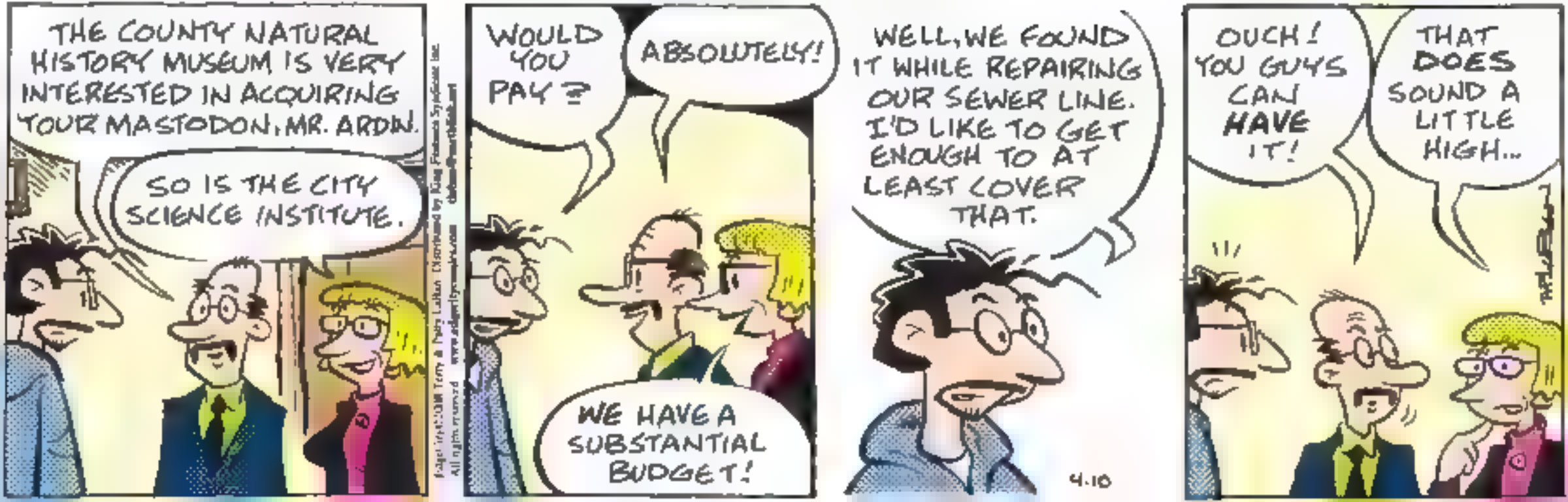



MR. ARDIN, IT LOOKS LIKE WE'RE FINALLY DONE EXCAVATING THE MASTODON.
HALLELUJAH!


WHAT NOW?
WELL, IT'S A FINE SPECIMEN. I KNOW SOME MUSEUM CURATORS ARE INTERESTED.
4-9


IT'S GONNA BE OUR MASTODON!
NO, OURS!
4-10


THE COUNTY NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM IS VERY INTERESTED IN ACQUIRING YOUR MASTODON, MR. ARDIN.
SO IS THE CITY SCIENCE INSTITUTE.
WOULD YOU PAY?
ABSOLUTELY!
WE HAVE A SUBSTANTIAL BUDGET!
WELL, WE FOUND IT WHILE REPAIRING OUR SEWER LINE. I'D LIKE TO GET ENOUGH TO AT LEAST COVER THAT.
4-10
OUCH! YOU GUYS CAN HAVE IT!
THAT DOES SOUND A LITTLE HIGH...

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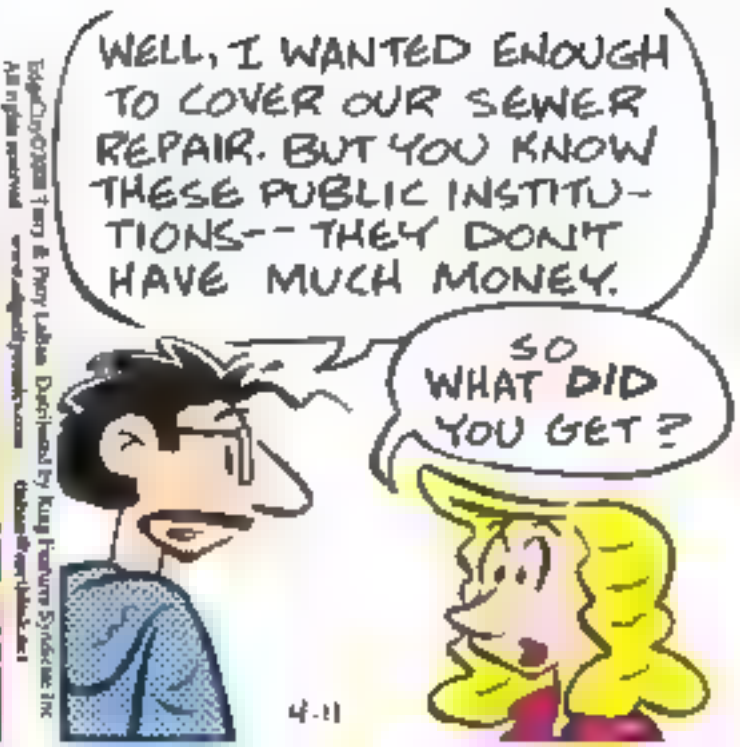

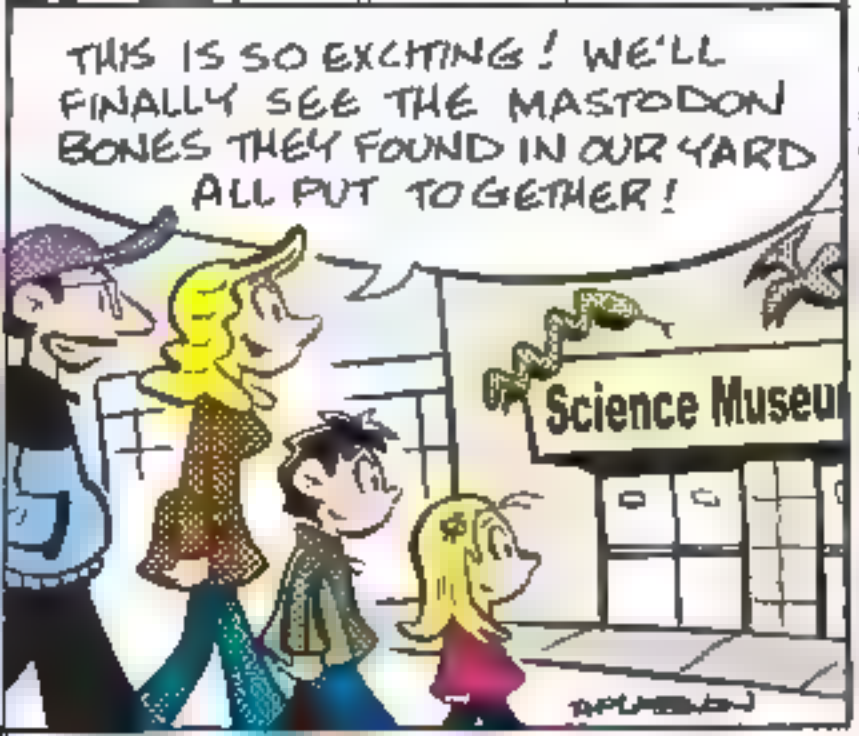

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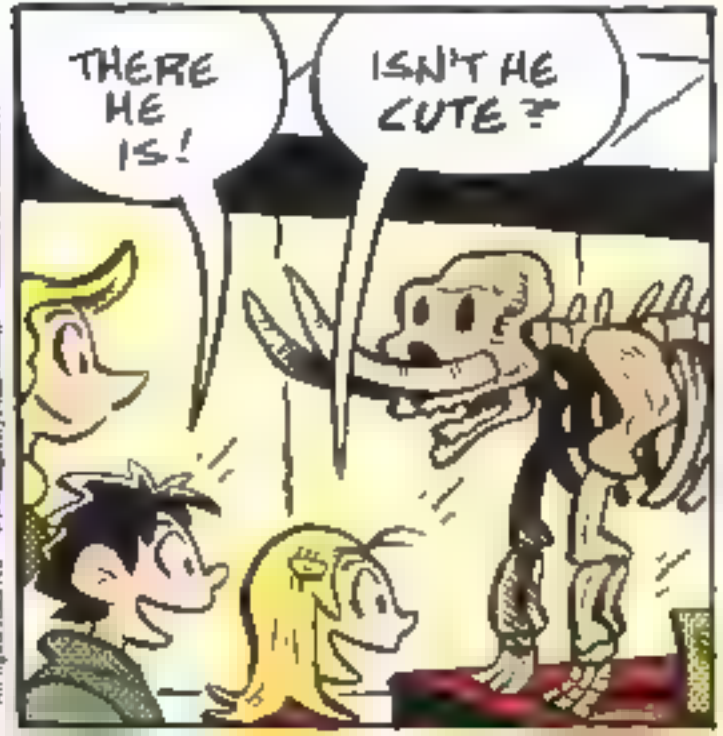
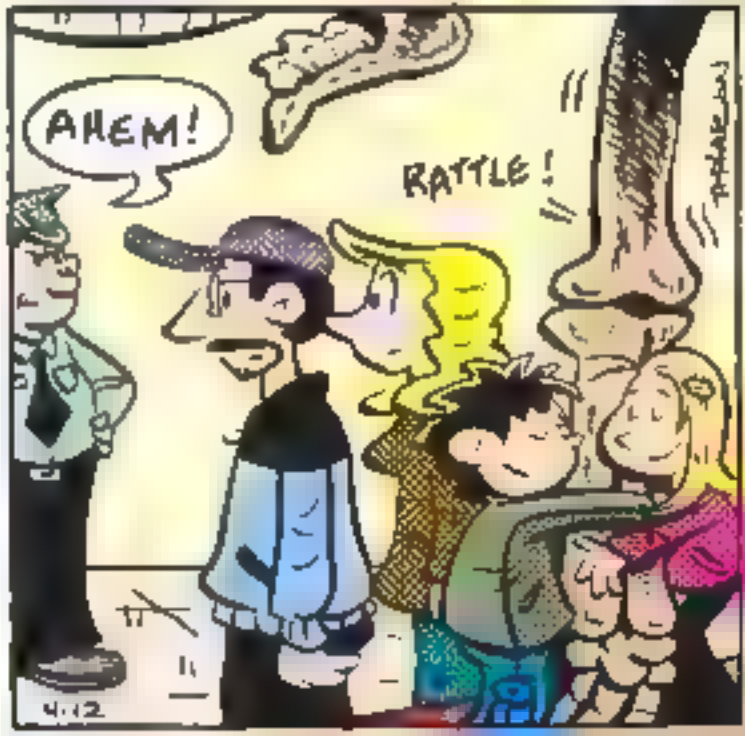
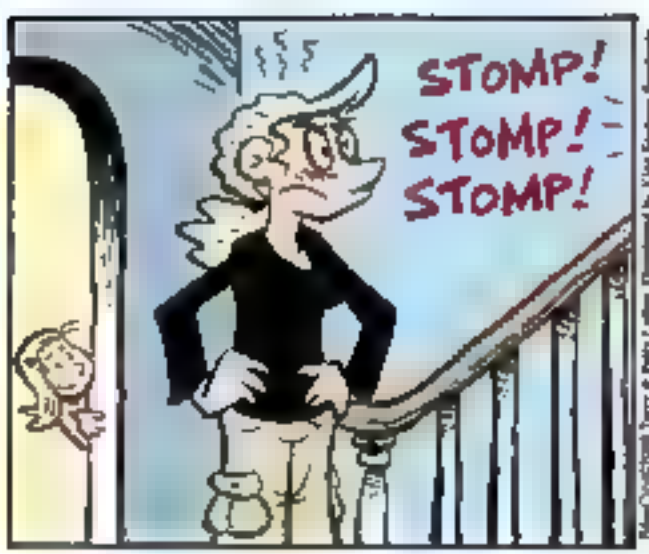
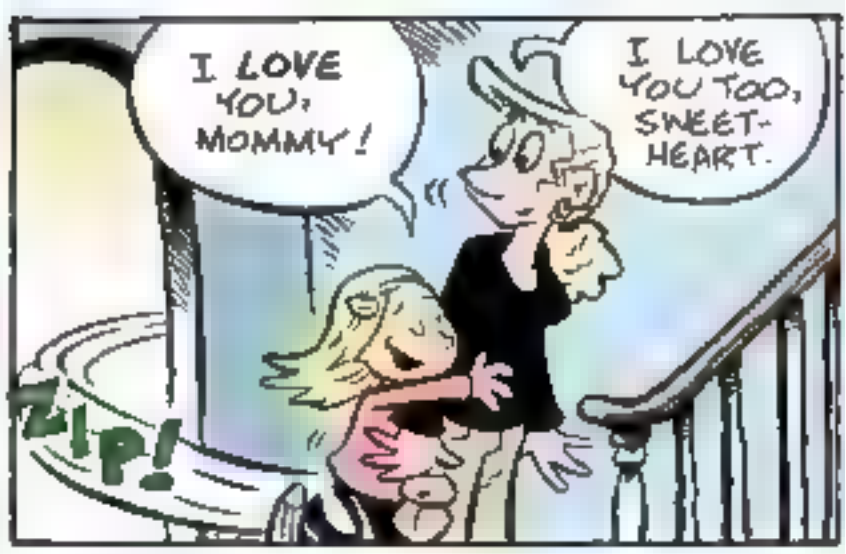
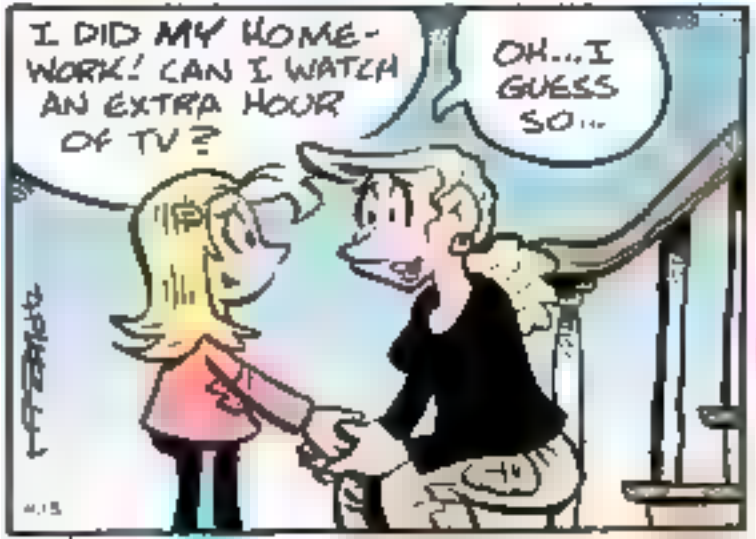


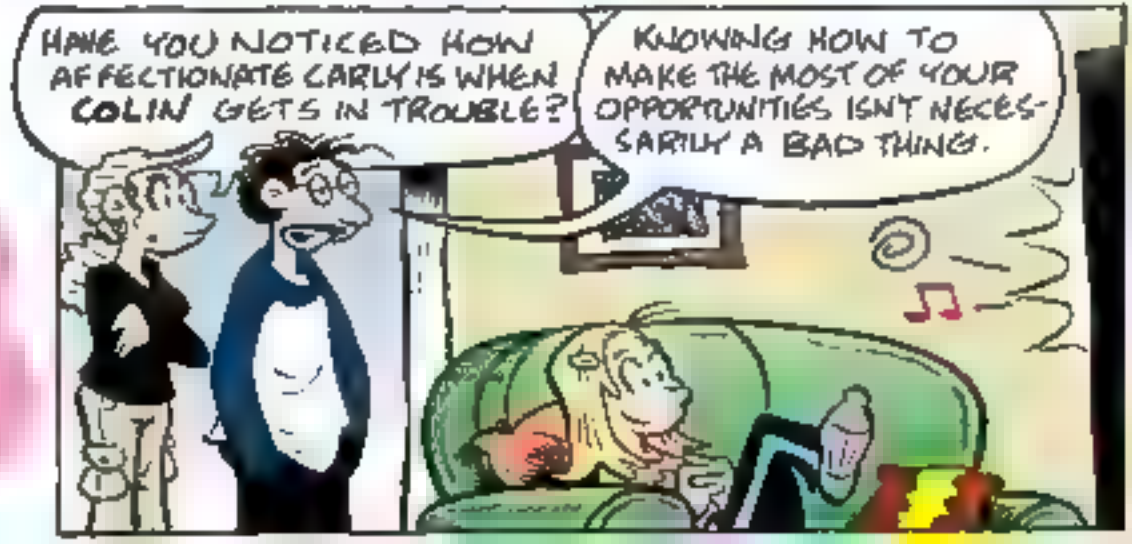


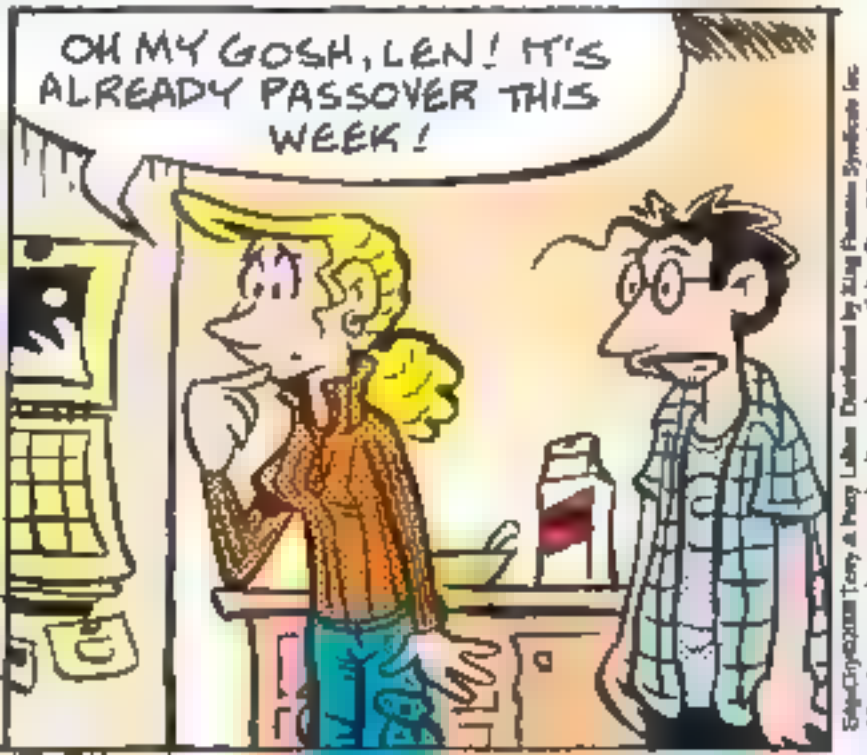
COLIN, GO DO YOUR HOME-WORK AND STOP TALKING BACK!


STOMP! STOMP! STOMP!

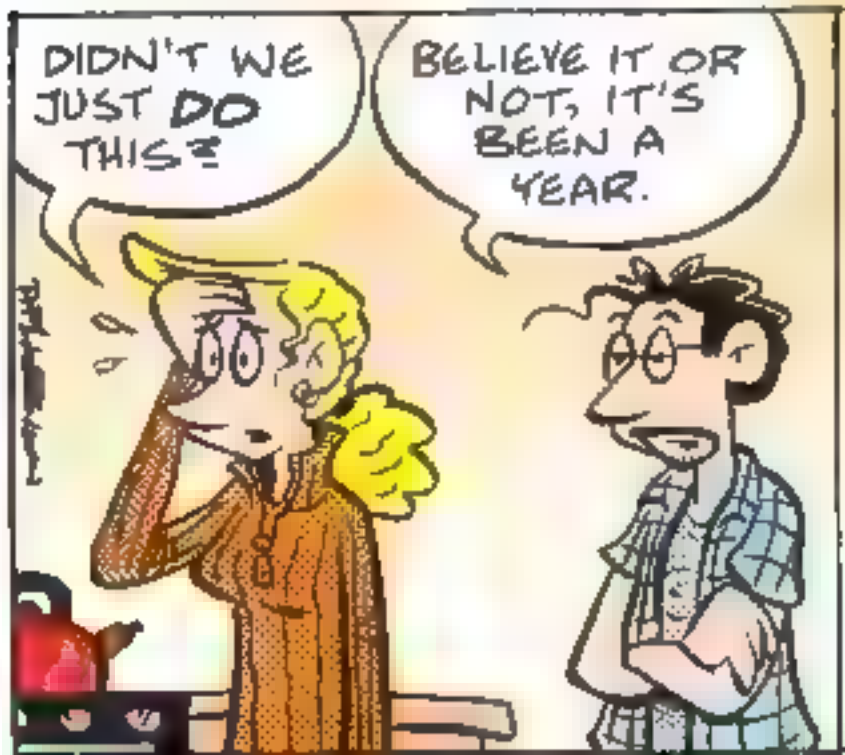

I LOVE YOU, MOMMY!
I LOVE YOU TOO, SWEET-HEART.
ZIP!

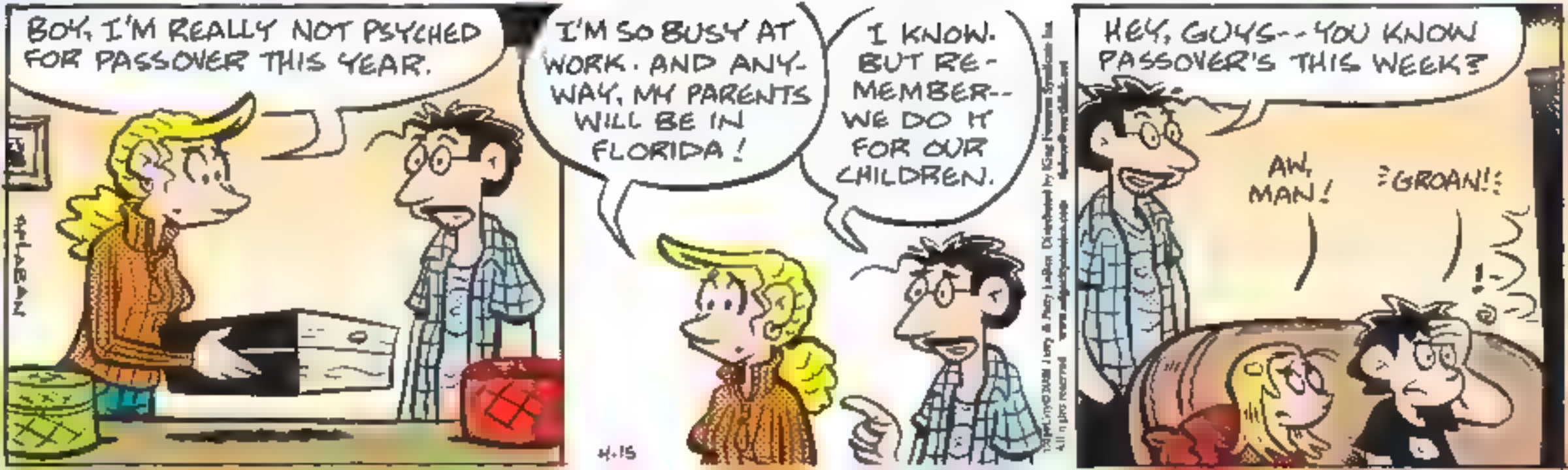

I DID MY HOME-WORK! CAN I WATCH AN EXTRA HOUR OF TV?
OH...I GUESS SO...

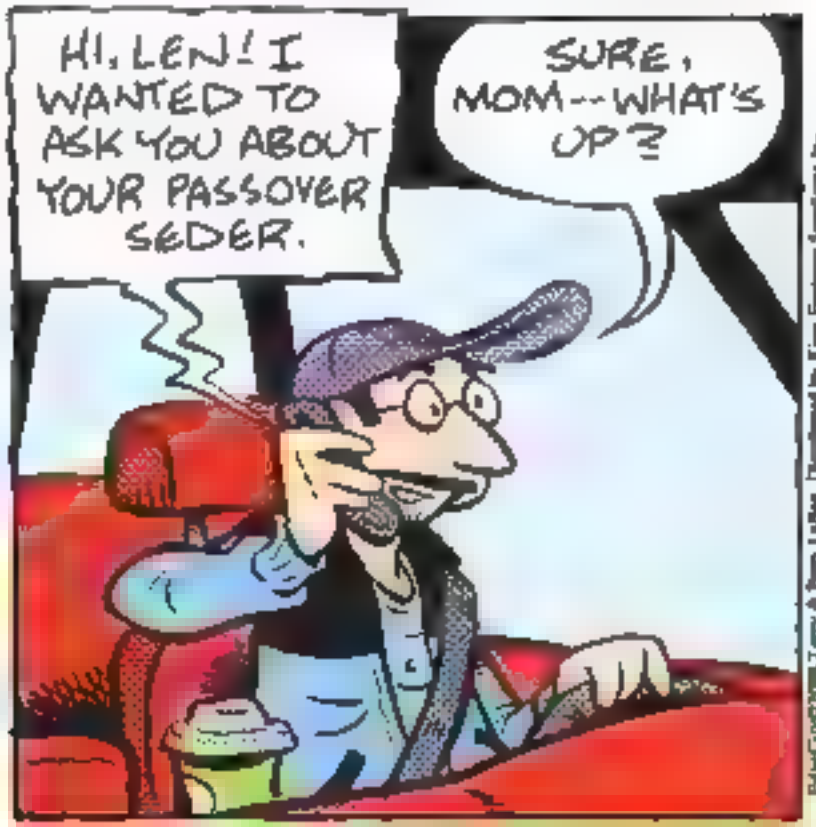

HAVE YOU NOTICED HOW AFFECTIONATE CARLY IS WHEN COLIN GETS IN TROUBLE?
KNOWING HOW TO MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR OPPORTUNITIES ISN'T NECES-SARILY A BAD THING.

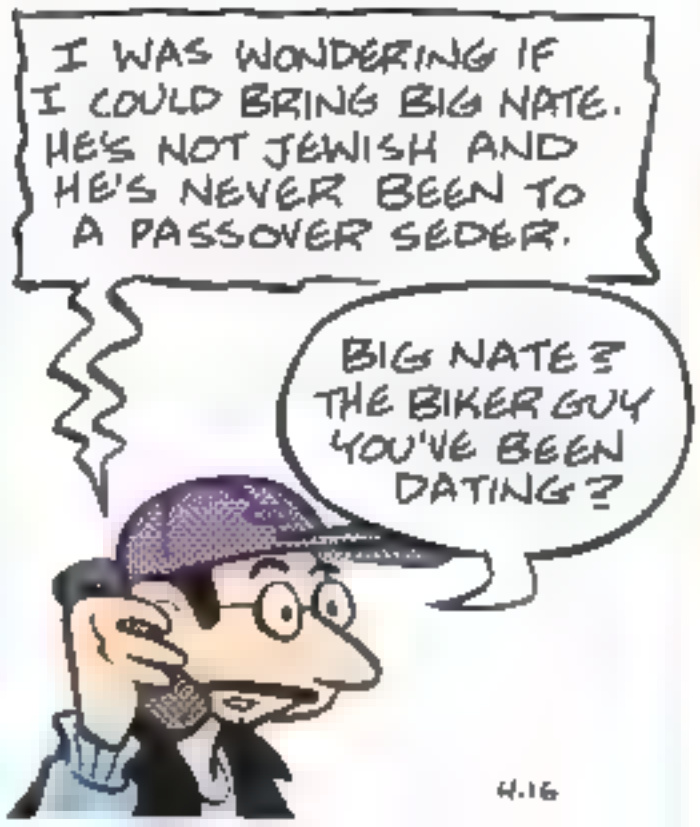

OH MY GOSH, LEN! IT'S ALREADY PASSOVER THIS WEEK!

WE'VE GOT TO CLEAN, SHOP, COOK, SET THE TABLE...
4.14

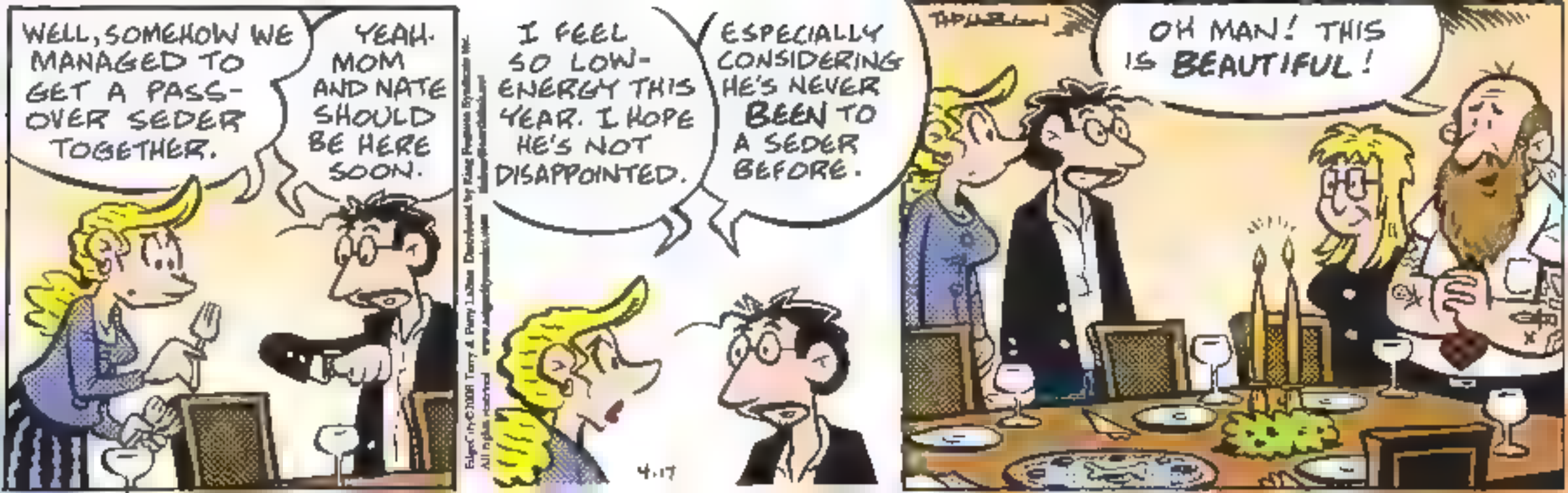

DIDN'T WE JUST DO THIS?
BELIEVE IT OR NOT, IT'S BEEN A YEAR.


BOY, I'M REALLY NOT PSYCHED FOR PASSOVER THIS YEAR.
I'M SO BUSY AT WORK. AND ANYWAY, MY PARENTS WILL BE IN FLORIDA!
I KNOW. BUT REMEMBER-- WE DO IT FOR OUR CHILDREN.
HEY, GUYS--YOU KNOW PASSOVER'S THIS WEEK?
AW, MAN!
:GROAN!:
LABAN
4-15


HI, LEN! I WANTED TO ASK YOU ABOUT YOUR PASSOVER SEDER.
SURE, MOM--WHAT'S UP?

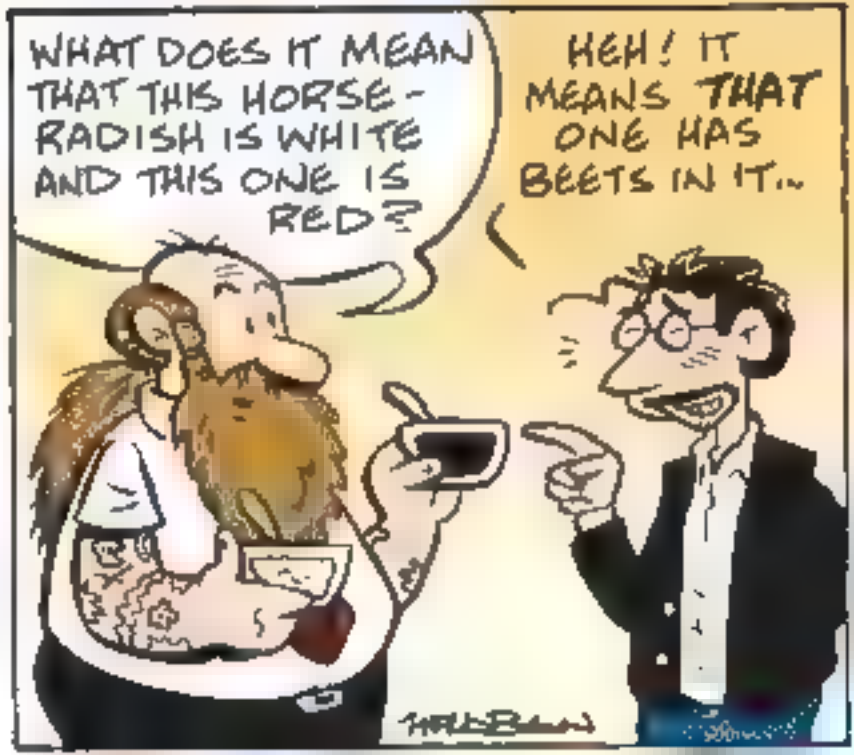

I WAS WONDERING IF I COULD BRING BIG NATE. HE'S NOT JEWISH AND HE'S NEVER BEEN TO A PASSOVER SEDER.
BIG NATE? THE BIKER GUY YOU'VE BEEN DATING?
4-16

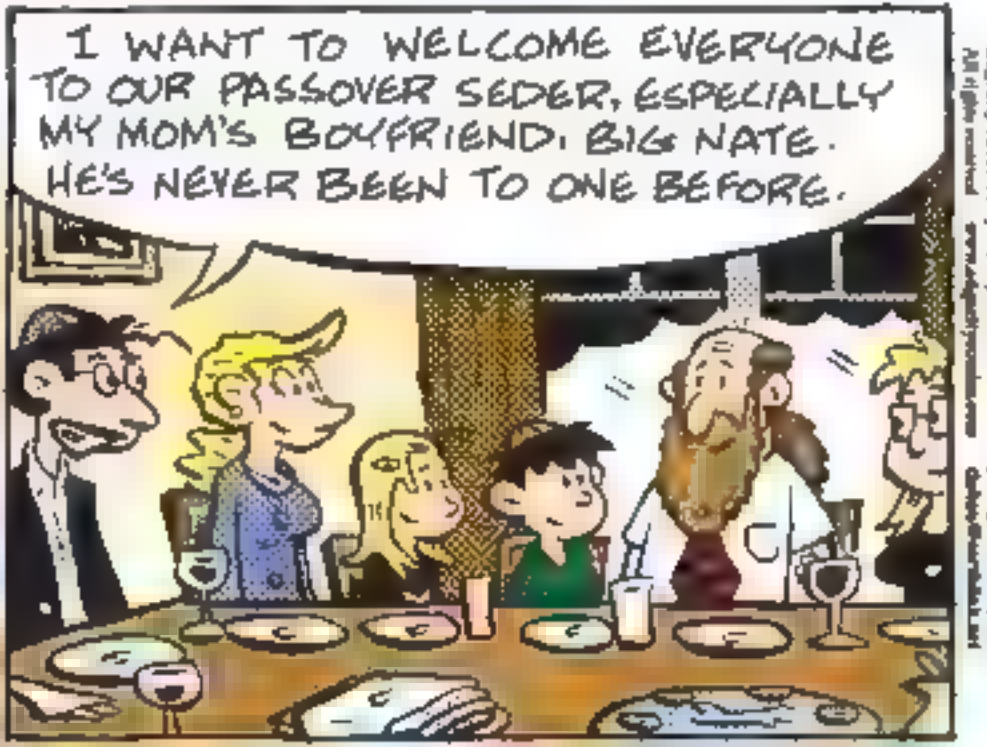
DON'T WORRY-- HE'LL WEAR A SHIRT.
WELL... I GUESS IT'D BE OK...


WELL, SOMEHOW WE MANAGED TO GET A PASS-OVER SEDER TOGETHER.
YEAH. MOM AND NATE SHOULD BE HERE SOON.
I FEEL SO LOW-ENERGY THIS YEAR. I HOPE HE'S NOT DISAPPOINTED.
ESPECIALLY CONSIDERING HE'S NEVER BEEN TO A SEDER BEFORE.
OH MAN! THIS IS BEAUTIFUL!
4-17

THANKS FOR INVITING ME TO PASSOVER, LEN. THE TABLE LOOKS REALLY NICE.
THANKS, NATE.

YOU KNOW, EVERYTHING WE USE IN THE PASSOVER SEDER HAS SYMBOLIC MEANING!
4.18


WHAT DOES IT MEAN THAT THIS HORSERADISH IS WHITE AND THIS ONE IS RED?
HEH! IT MEANS THAT ONE HAS BEETS IN IT...



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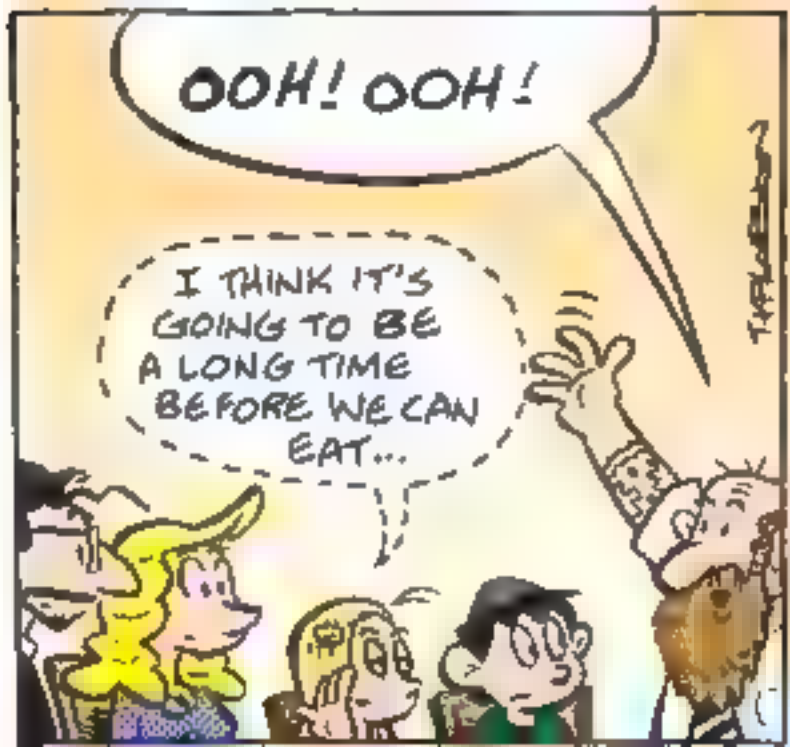
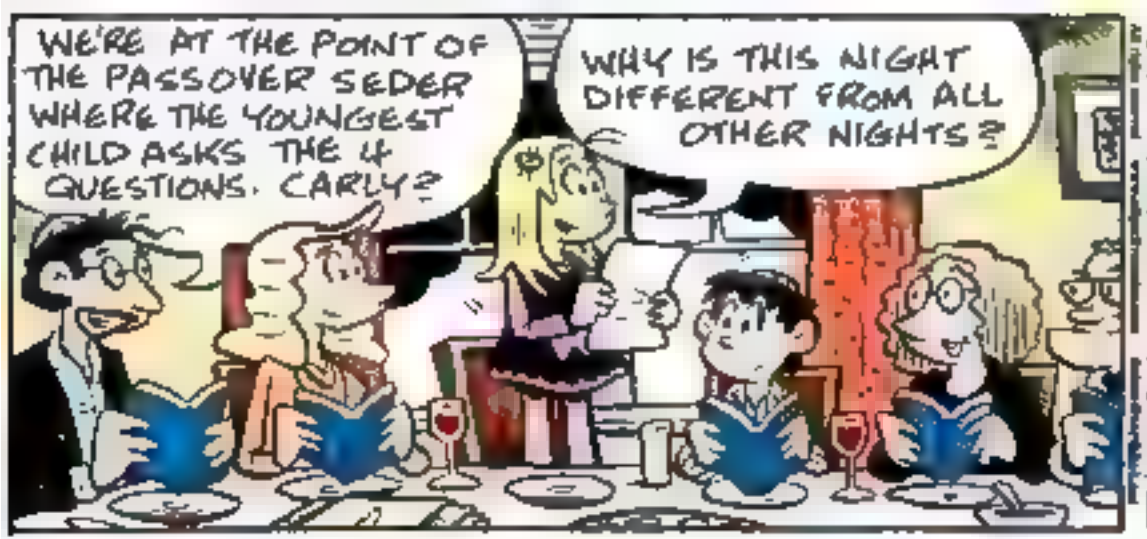
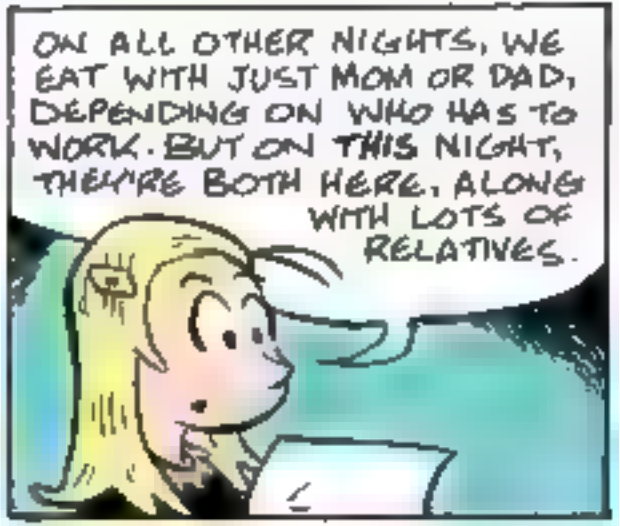


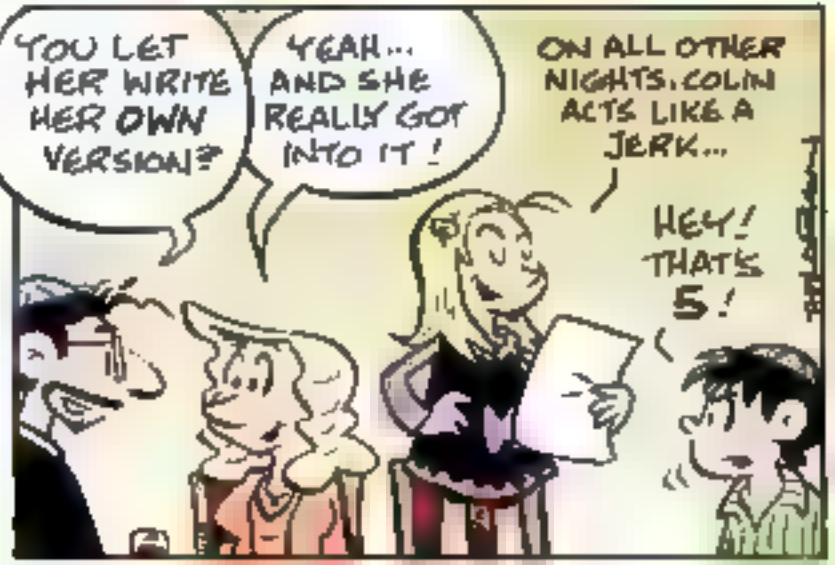

WE'RE AT THE POINT OF THE PASSOVER SEDER WHERE THE YOUNGEST CHILD ASKS THE 4 QUESTIONS. CARLY?
WHY IS THIS NIGHT DIFFERENT FROM ALL OTHER NIGHTS?

ON ALL OTHER NIGHTS, WE EAT DINNER LOOKING LIKE SLOBS. BUT ON THIS NIGHT, WE HAVE TO DRESS UP.


ON ALL OTHER NIGHTS, WE EAT WITH JUST MOM OR DAD, DEPENDING ON WHO HAS TO WORK. BUT ON THIS NIGHT, THEY'RE BOTH HERE, ALONG WITH LOTS OF RELATIVES.

ON ALL OTHER NIGHTS, WE EAT WHILE WATCHING TV. BUT ON THIS NIGHT, WE CAN'T WATCH TV, AND WE HAVE TO DO AN HOUR-LONG SERVICE BEFORE WE CAN EAT AT ALL!

ON ALL OTHER NIGHTS, I WON'T EAT ANYTHING SPICY. BUT ON THIS NIGHT, I'M TRYING THE HORSE-RADISH.


YOU LET HER WRITE HER OWN VERSION?
YEAH... AND SHE REALLY GOT INTO IT!
ON ALL OTHER NIGHTS, COLIN ACTS LIKE A JERK...
HEY! THAT'S 5!

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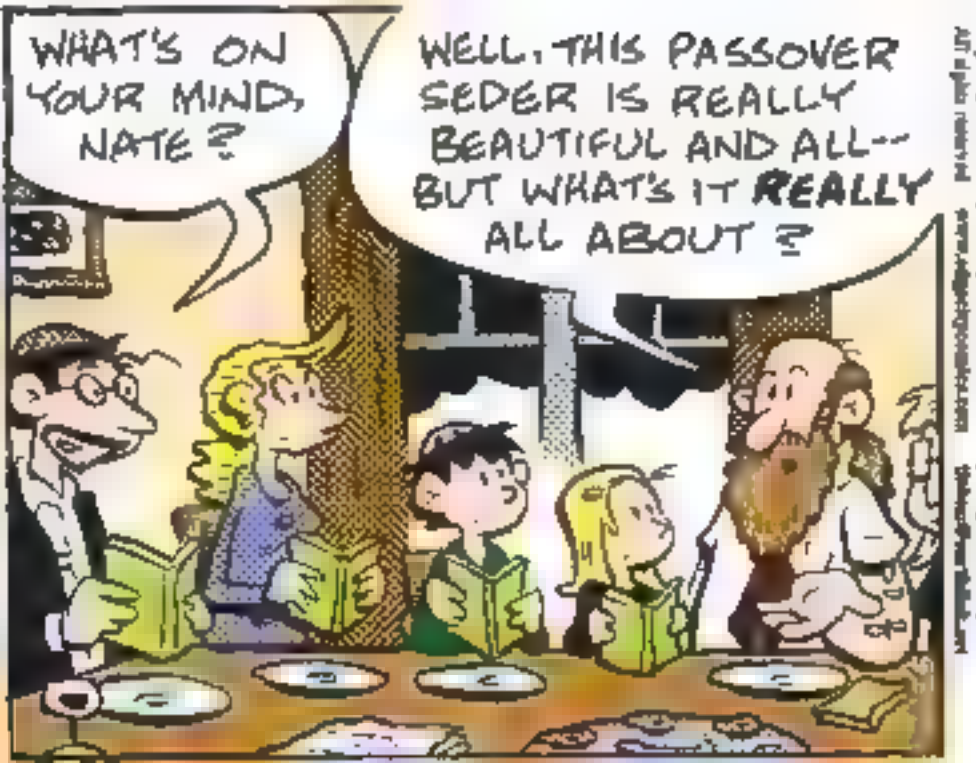
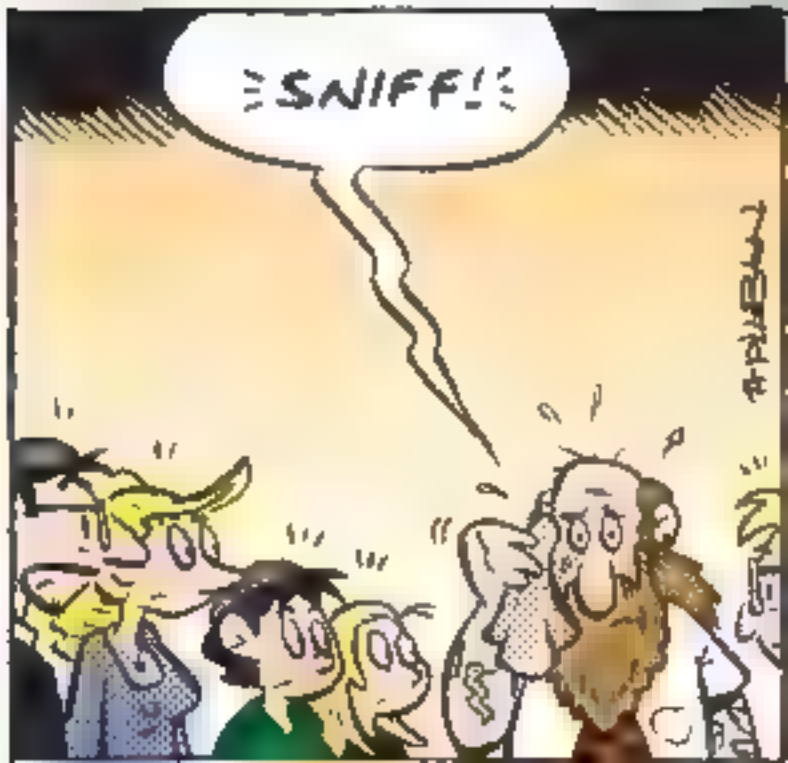
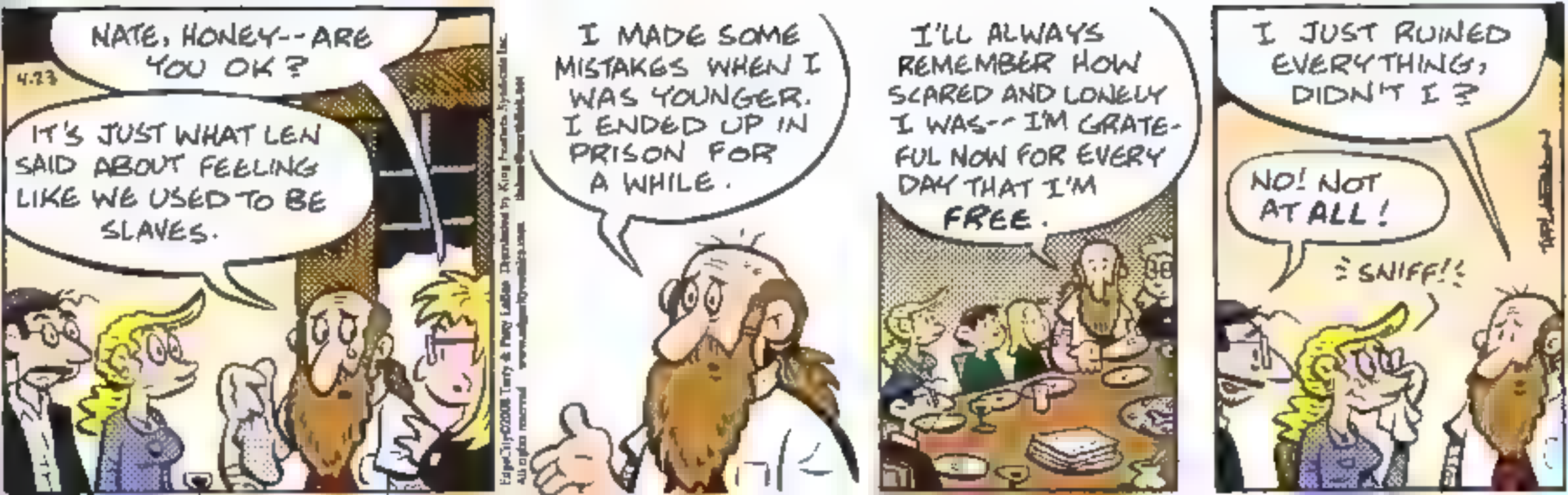
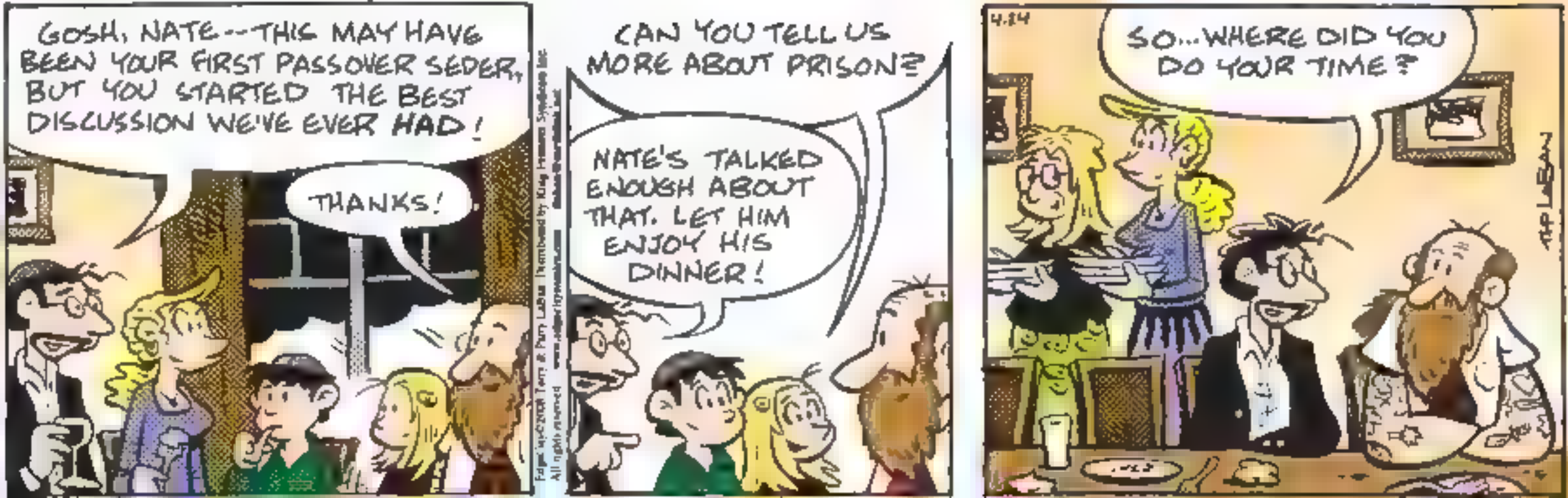
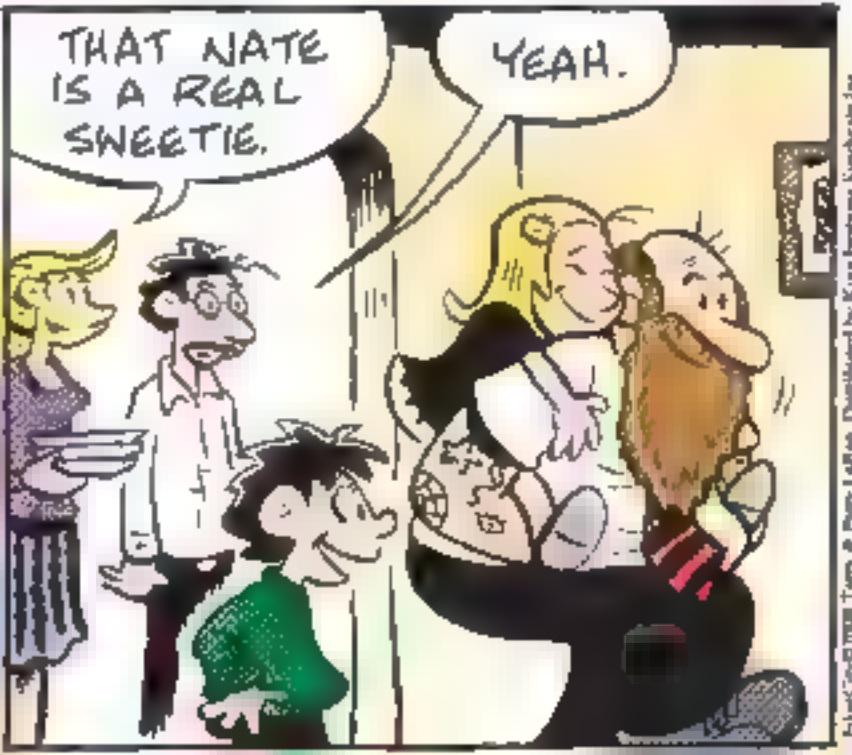

WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND, NATE?
WELL, THIS PASSOVER SEDER IS REALLY BEAUTIFUL AND ALL-- BUT WHAT'S IT REALLY ALL ABOUT?

IT'S ABOUT FREEDOM! EACH ONE OF US IS SUPPOSED TO FEEL LIKE WE PERSONALLY WERE SLAVES IN EGYPT.
YOU FOLLOW?
4.22

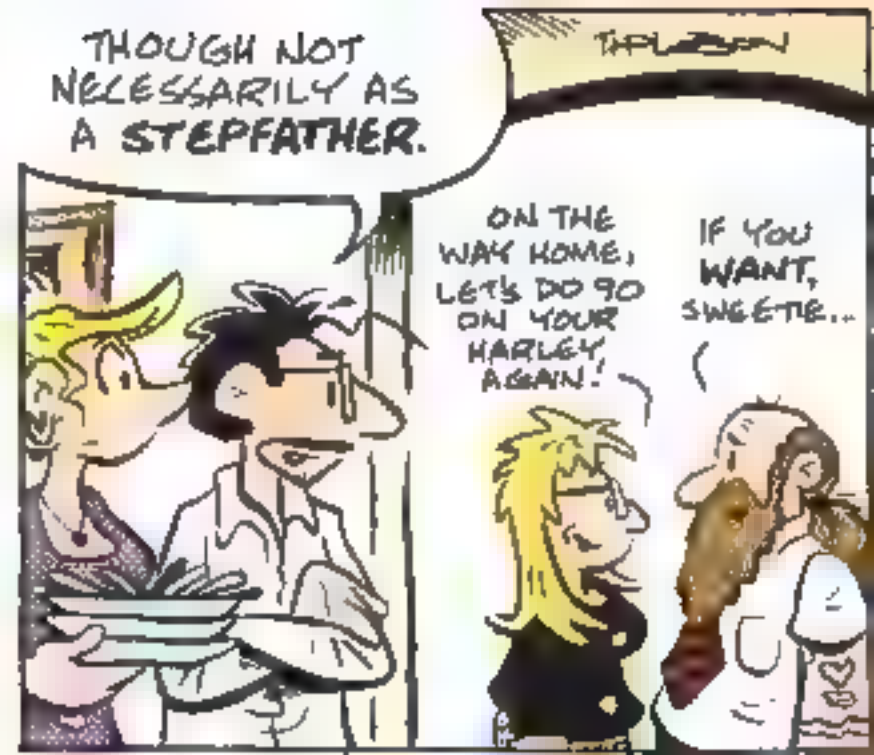

SNIFF!


4.23
NATE, HONEY--ARE YOU OK?
IT'S JUST WHAT LEN SAID ABOUT FEELING LIKE WE USED TO BE SLAVES.
I MADE SOME MISTAKES WHEN I WAS YOUNGER. I ENDED UP IN PRISON FOR A WHILE.
I'LL ALWAYS REMEMBER HOW SCARED AND LONELY I WAS--I'M GRATEFUL NOW FOR EVERY DAY THAT I'M FREE.
I JUST RUINED EVERYTHING, DIDN'T I?
NO! NOT AT ALL!
SNIFF!!


GOSH, NATE--THIS MAY HAVE BEEN YOUR FIRST PASSOVER SEDER, BUT YOU STARTED THE BEST DISCUSSION WE'VE EVER HAD!
THANKS!
CAN YOU TELL US MORE ABOUT PRISON?
NATE'S TALKED ENOUGH ABOUT THAT. LET HIM ENJOY HIS DINNER!
4.14
SO...WHERE DID YOU DO YOUR TIME?
TIM LABAN


THAT NATE IS A REAL SWEETIE.
YEAH.

HE HAS A SCARY PAST, BUT HE'S ACTUALLY VERY THOUGHTFUL AND SENSITIVE -- SOMEONE I WOULDN'T MIND HAVING FOR A FRIEND.
4.15


THOUGH NOT NECESSARILY AS A STEPFATHER.
ON THE WAY HOME, LET'S DO 90 ON YOUR HARLEY, AGAIN!
IF YOU WANT, SWEETIE...

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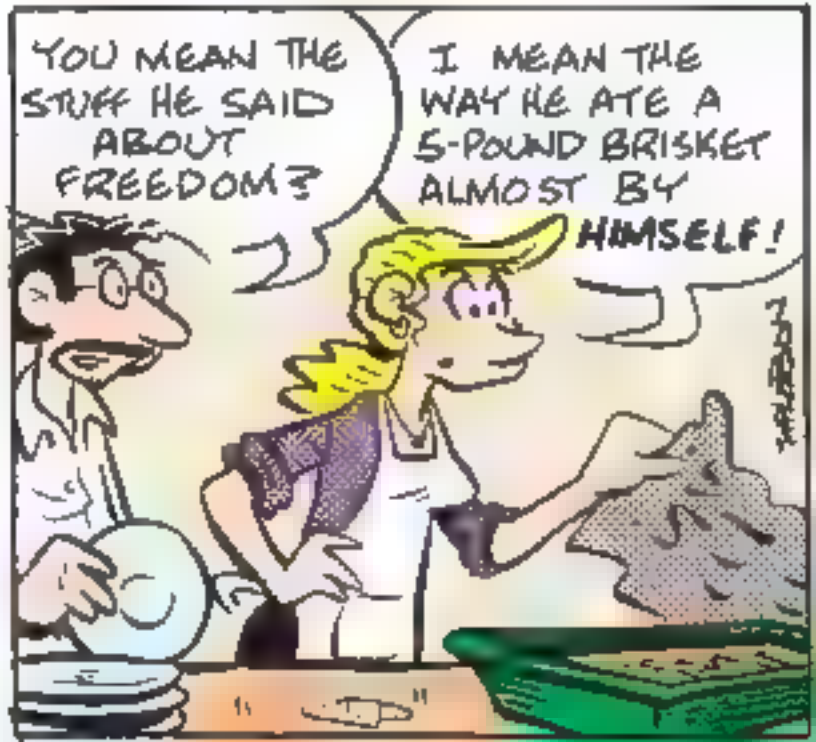
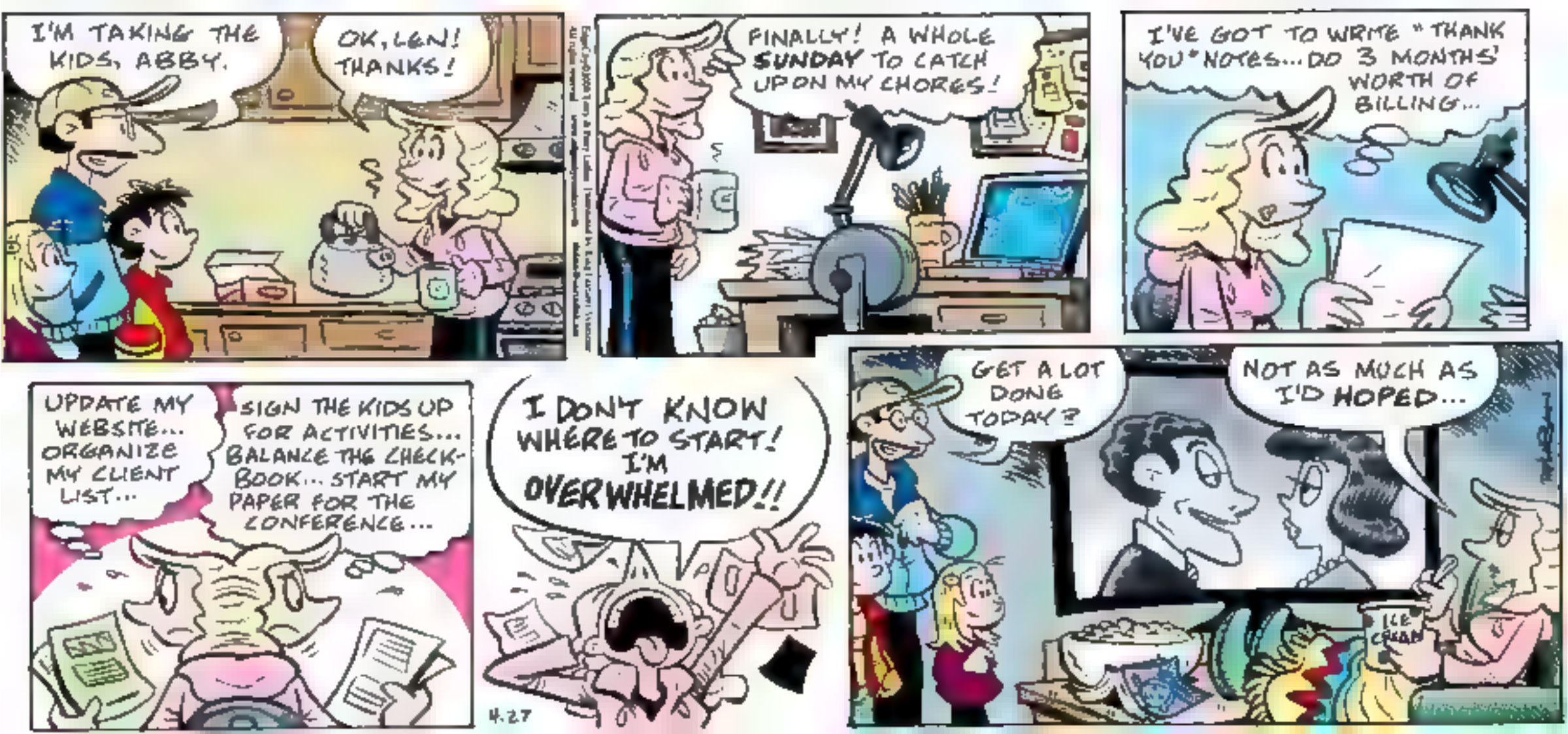
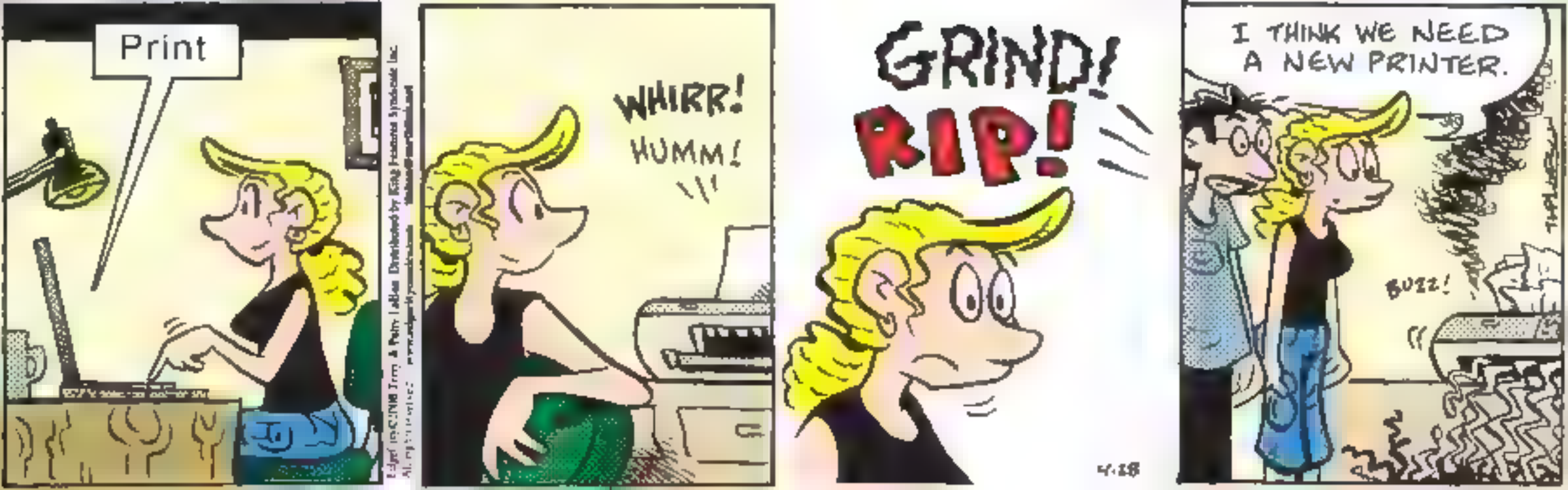
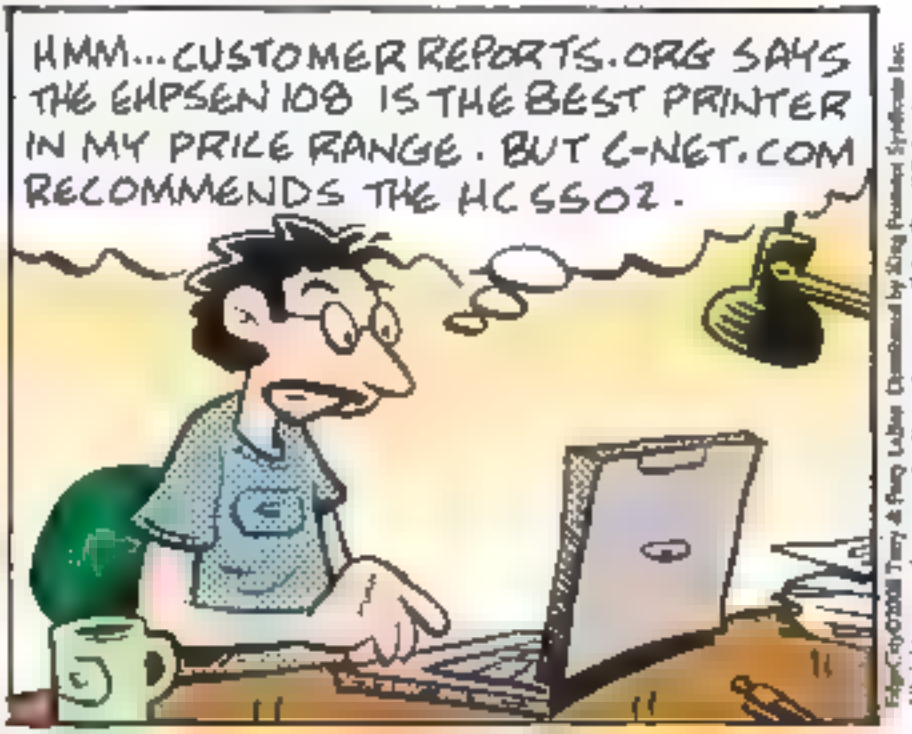


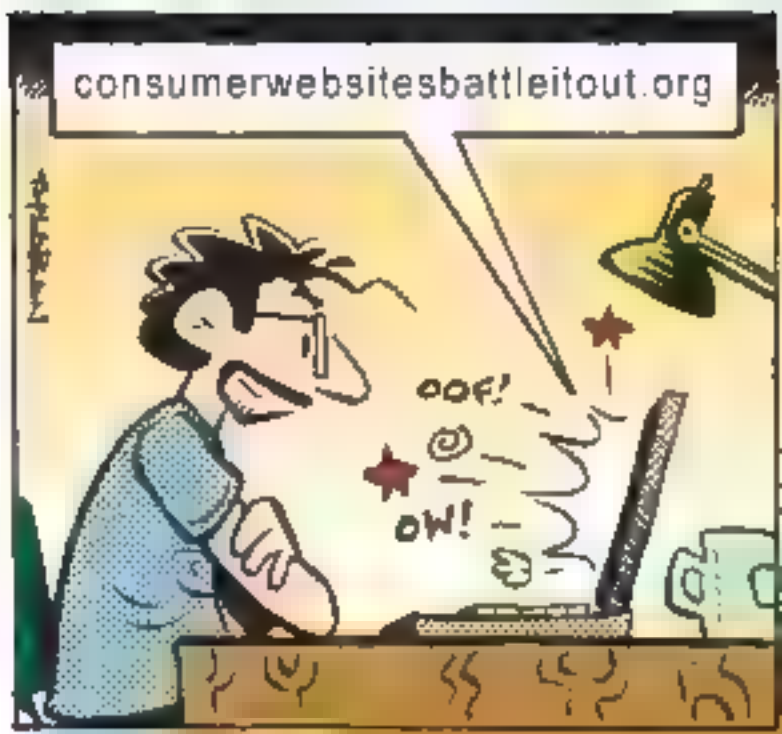

I'M TAKING THE KIDS, ABBY.
OK, LEN! THANKS!
FINALLY! A WHOLE SUNDAY TO CATCH UP ON MY CHORES!
I'VE GOT TO WRITE "THANK YOU" NOTES... DO 3 MONTHS' WORTH OF BILLING...
UPDATE MY WEBSITE... ORGANIZE MY CLIENT LIST...
SIGN THE KIDS UP FOR ACTIVITIES... BALANCE THE CHECK-BOOK... START MY PAPER FOR THE CONFERENCE...
I DON'T KNOW WHERE TO START! I'M OVERWHELMED!!
4.27
GET A LOT DONE TODAY?
NOT AS MUCH AS I'D HOPED...
ICE CREAM

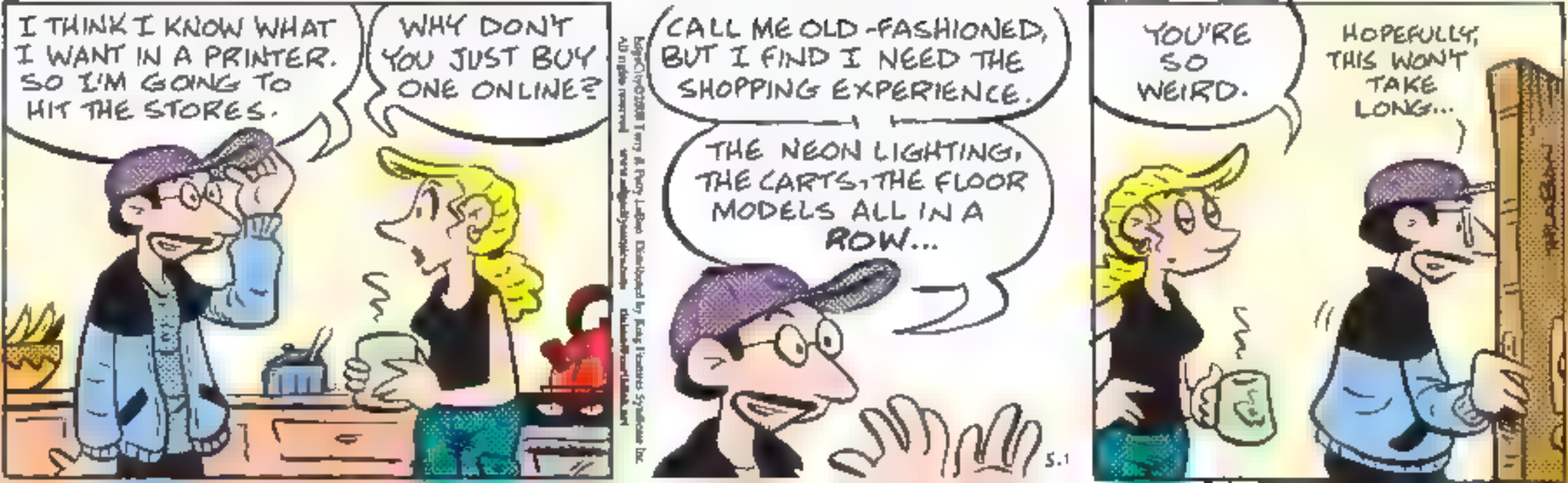

Print
WHIRR!
HUMM!
GRIND!
RIP!
I THINK WE NEED A NEW PRINTER.
BUZZ!

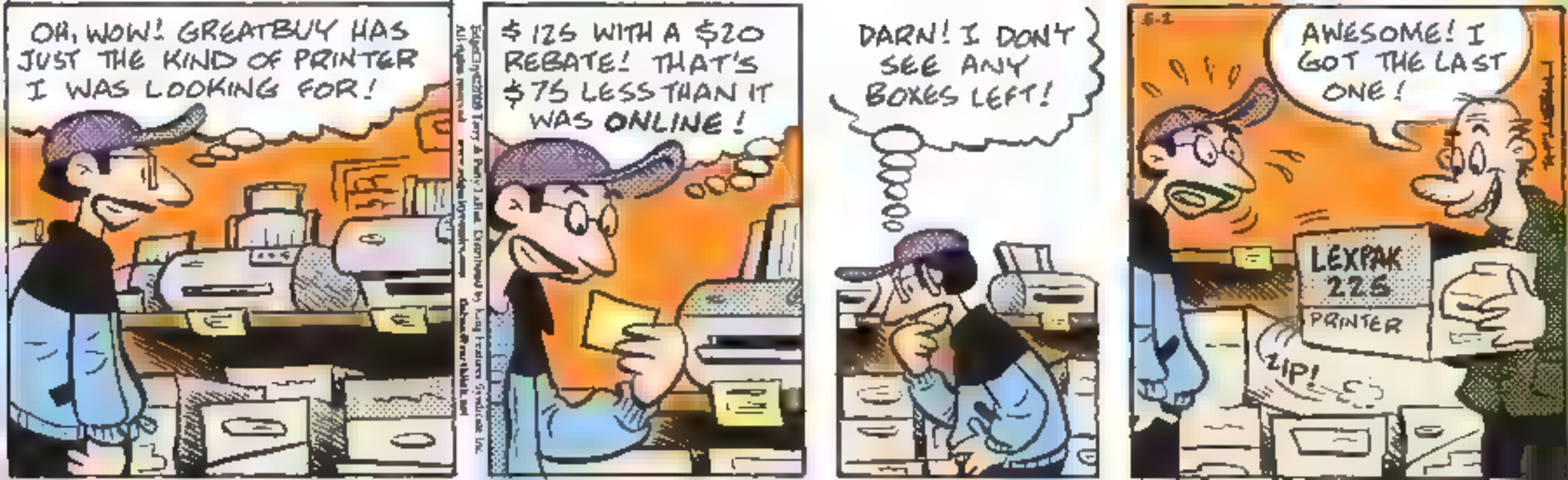
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
SHOPPING FOR A NEW PRINTER.
DID YOU FIND ONE?
NOT YET. FIRST I'VE GOT TO DO SOME RESEARCH.
DOES IT HAVE BUILT-IN ADF? A DUPLEXER?
IS THERE NETWORKING CAPABILITY? WILL IT WORK WITH AN HDD DEVICE?
4-19
SEE YOU IN THE MORNING.
A SCANNING OPTICAL RESOLUTION OF AT LEAST 2400dpi...

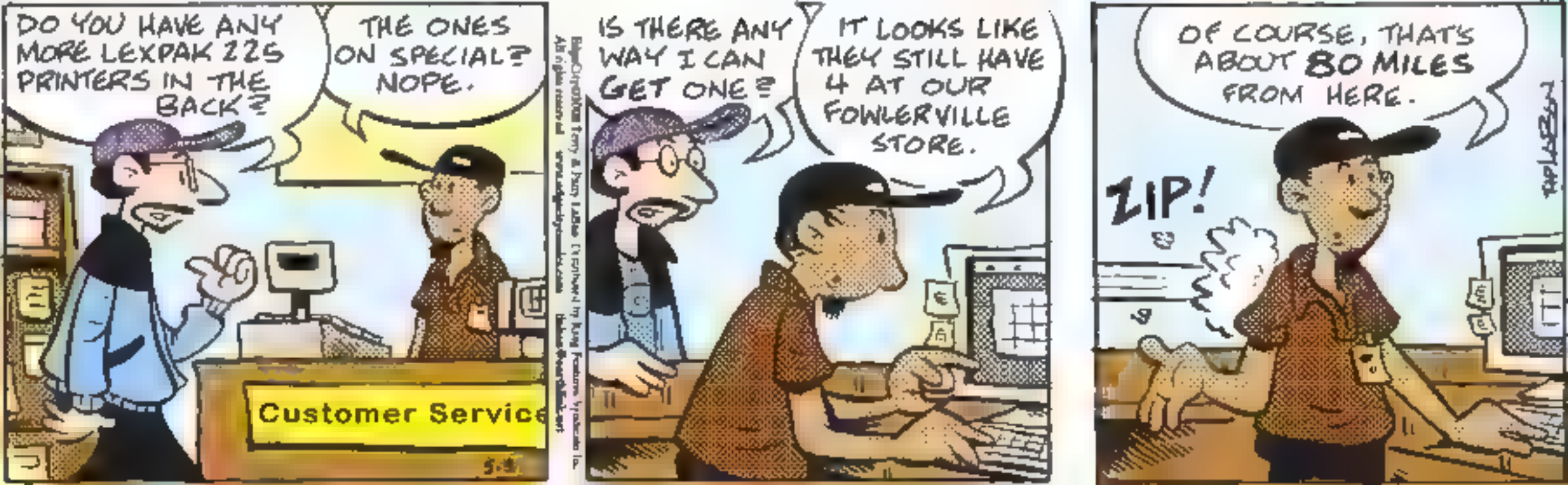

HMM... CUSTOMER REPORTS.ORG SAYS THE EHPSEN 108 IS THE BEST PRINTER IN MY PRICE RANGE. BUT C-NET.COM RECOMMENDS THE HC 5502.

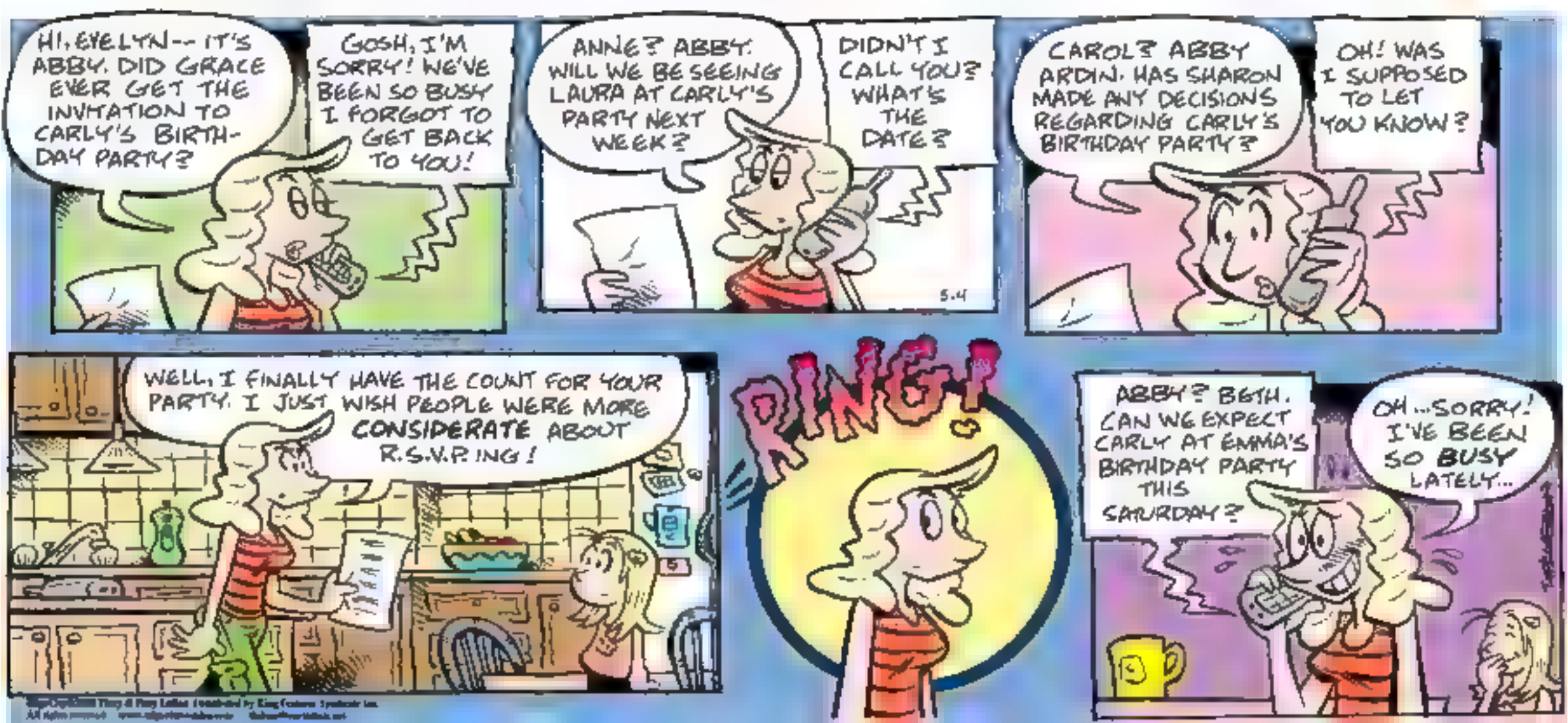
REVIEW.COM GIVES A THUMBS-UP TO THE DHELL 441 SC... PRICE.NET LIKES THE LEXPAK 225. HOW CAN I DECIDE?
4.30


consumerwebsitesbattleitout.org
OOF!
OW!

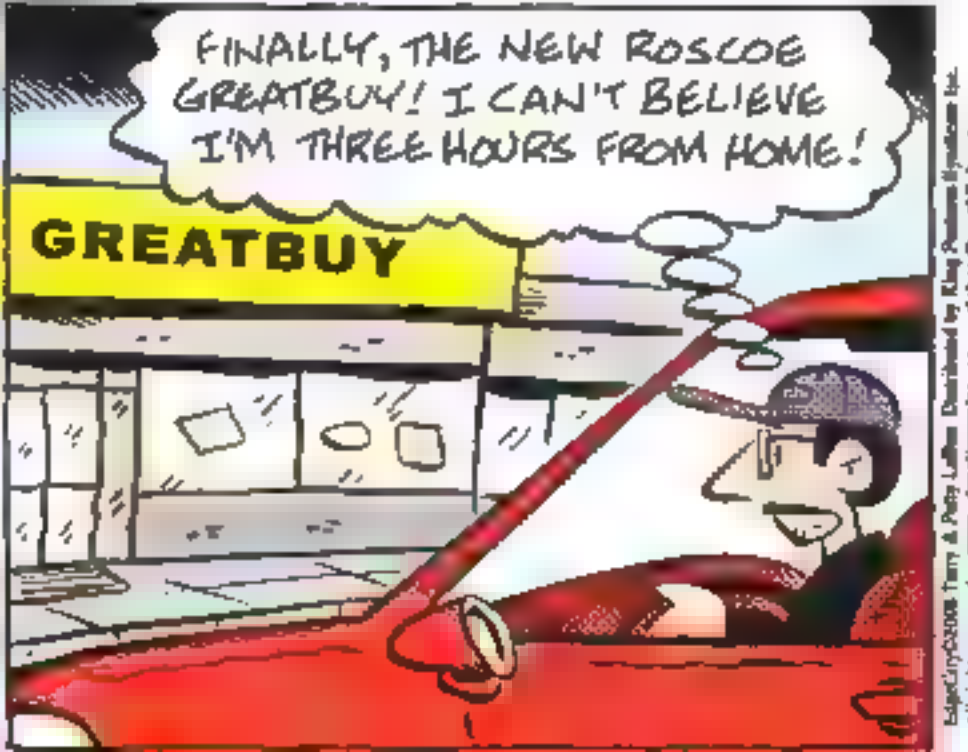

I THINK I KNOW WHAT I WANT IN A PRINTER. SO I'M GOING TO HIT THE STORES.
WHY DON'T YOU JUST BUY ONE ONLINE?
CALL ME OLD-FASHIONED, BUT I FIND I NEED THE SHOPPING EXPERIENCE.
THE NEON LIGHTING, THE CARTS, THE FLOOR MODELS ALL IN A ROW...
YOU'RE SO WEIRD.
HOPEFULLY, THIS WON'T TAKE LONG...


OH, WOW! GREATBUY HAS JUST THE KIND OF PRINTER I WAS LOOKING FOR!
$125 WITH A $20 REBATE! THAT'S $75 LESS THAN IT WAS ONLINE!
DARN! I DON'T SEE ANY BOXES LEFT!
AWESOME! I GOT THE LAST ONE!
LEXPAK 225 PRINTER
ZIP!


DO YOU HAVE ANY MORE LEXPAK 225 PRINTERS IN THE BACK?
THE ONES ON SPECIAL? NOPE.
Customer Service
IS THERE ANY WAY I CAN GET ONE?
IT LOOKS LIKE THEY STILL HAVE 4 AT OUR FOWLERVILLE STORE.
OF COURSE, THAT'S ABOUT 80 MILES FROM HERE.
ZIP!

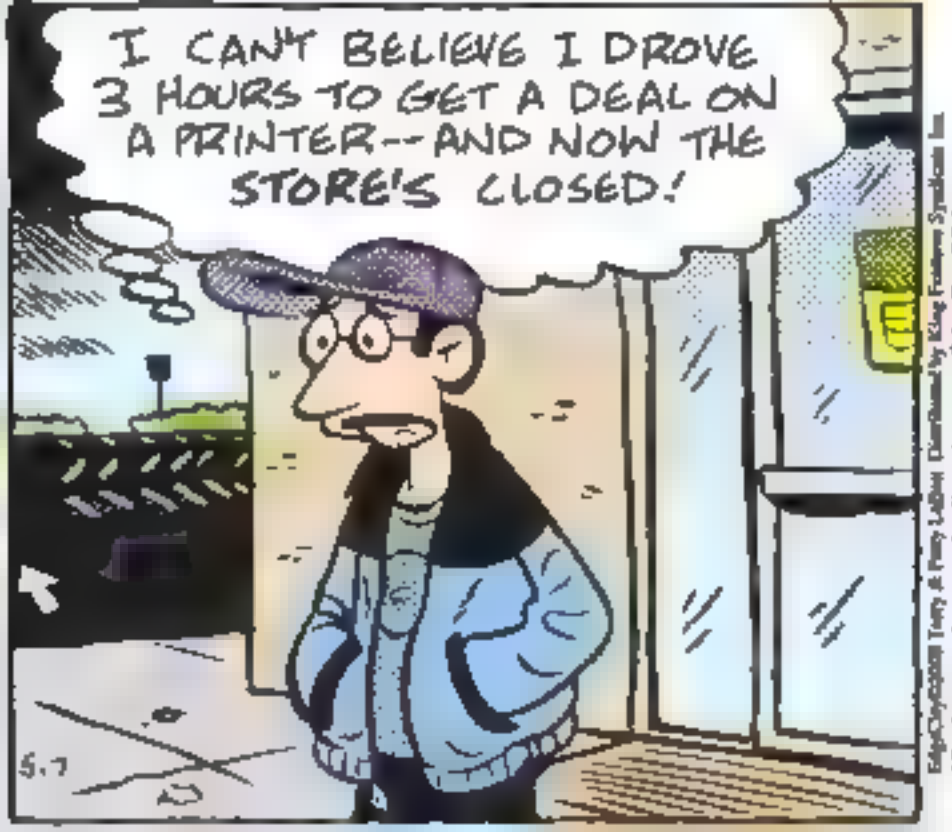

HI, EVELYN -- IT'S ABBY. DID GRACE EVER GET THE INVITATION TO CARLY'S BIRTHDAY PARTY?
GOSH, I'M SORRY! WE'VE BEEN SO BUSY I FORGOT TO GET BACK TO YOU!
ANNE? ABBY. WILL WE BE SEEING LAURA AT CARLY'S PARTY NEXT WEEK?
DIDN'T I CALL YOU? WHAT'S THE DATE?
5.4
CAROL? ABBY ARDIN. HAS SHARON MADE ANY DECISIONS REGARDING CARLY'S BIRTHDAY PARTY?
OH! WAS I SUPPOSED TO LET YOU KNOW?
WELL, I FINALLY HAVE THE COUNT FOR YOUR PARTY. I JUST WISH PEOPLE WERE MORE CONSIDERATE ABOUT R.S.V.P.ING!
RING!
ABBY? BETH. CAN WE EXPECT CARLY AT EMMA'S BIRTHDAY PARTY THIS SATURDAY?
OH...SORRY! I'VE BEEN SO BUSY LATELY...

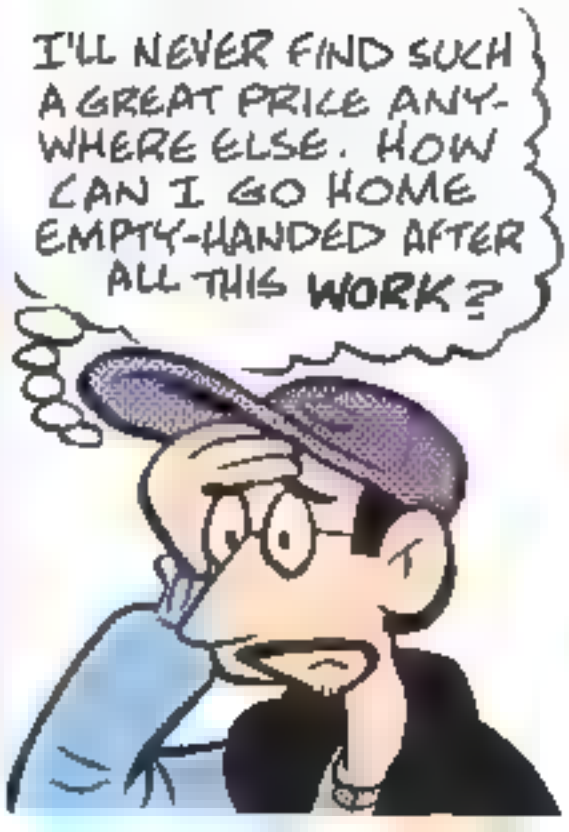
I JUST DROVE UP FROM YOUR OTHER STORE. I'M LOOKING FOR THE DISCOUNTED PRINTER.
THE LEXPAK 225? WE JUST SOLD OUT.
WHAT? I WAS TOLD YOU HAD 4!
YEAH... THEY'VE BEEN FLYING OFF THE SHELVES.
5-5
I JUST DROVE FOR 45 MINUTES!
THERE ARE STILL SOME AT OUR STORE IN NEW ROSCOE.
BUT GETTING UP THERE WILL TAKE YOU AT LEAST ANOTHER 2 HOURS.
ZIP!


FINALLY, THE NEW ROSCOE GREATBUY! I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M THREE HOURS FROM HOME!
GREATBUY

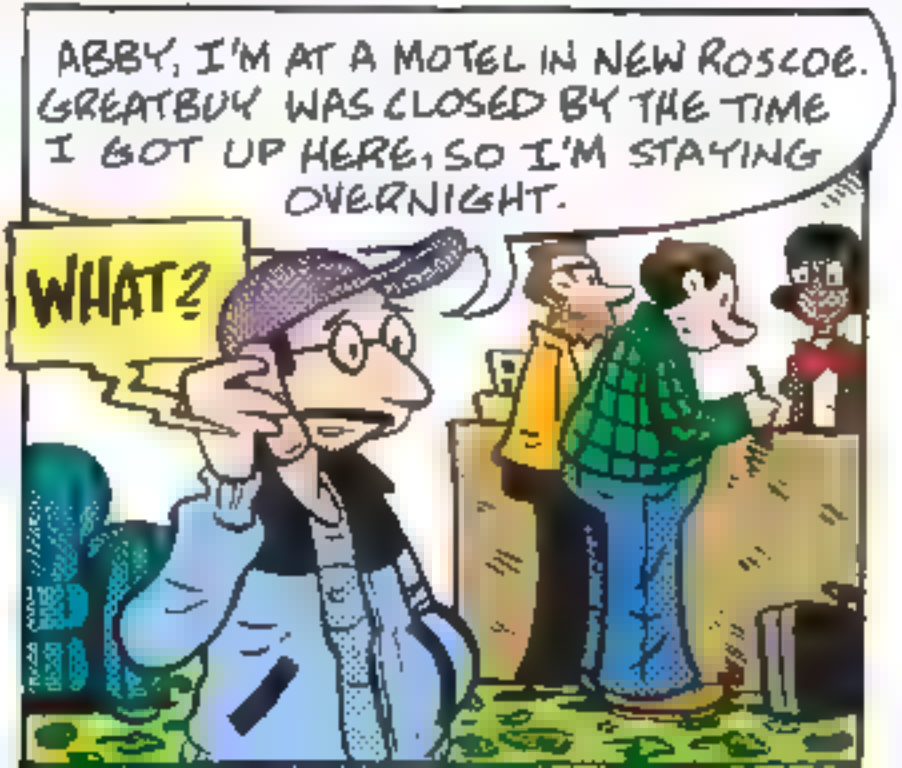
BUYING THIS PRINTER IS BECOMING A REAL HASSLE! IT'S A GOOD THING THESE BIG BOX STORES ARE OPEN LATE!

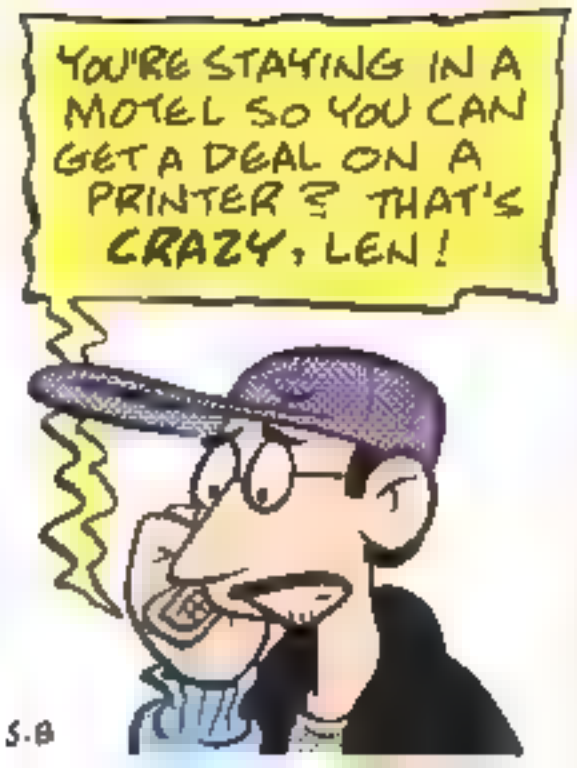
NOOO!!
NEW HOURS OF OPERATION
SUNDAY 10-5

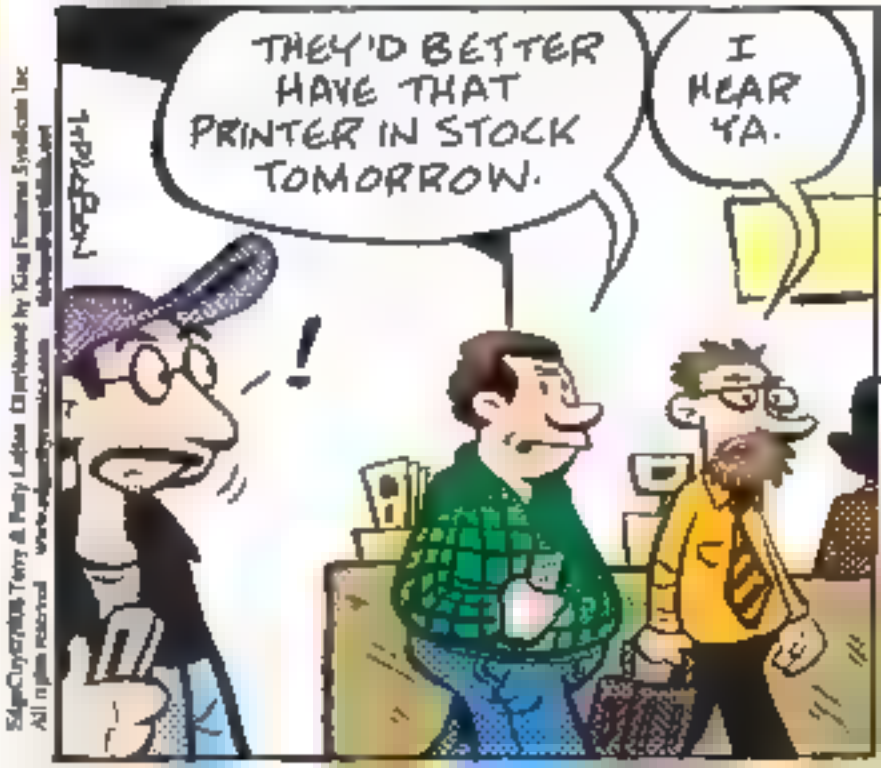

I CAN'T BELIEVE I DROVE 3 HOURS TO GET A DEAL ON A PRINTER--AND NOW THE STORE'S CLOSED!


I'LL NEVER FIND SUCH A GREAT PRICE ANYWHERE ELSE. HOW CAN I GO HOME EMPTY-HANDED AFTER ALL THIS WORK?

YOU'LL JUST BE WITH US ONE NIGHT?
THAT'S RIGHT.
NEW ROSCOE
MOTEL
VACANCY







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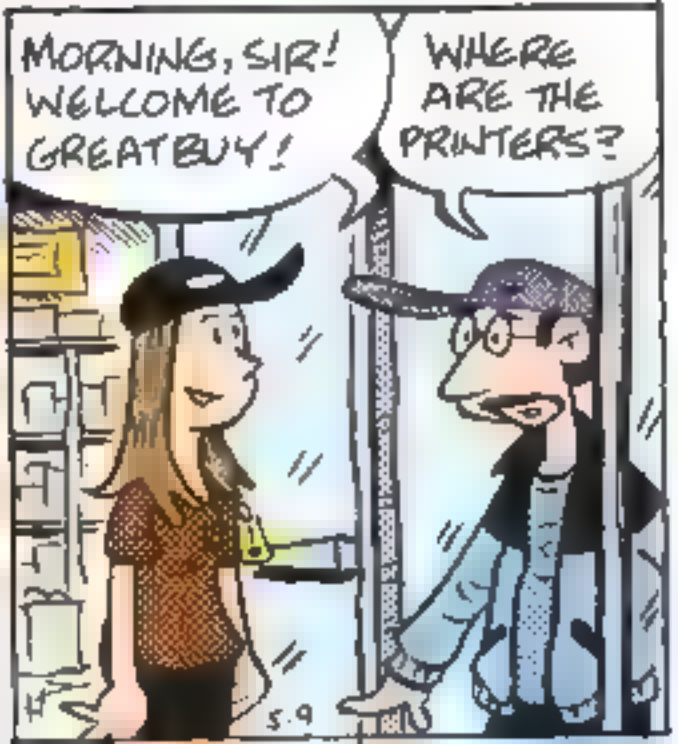
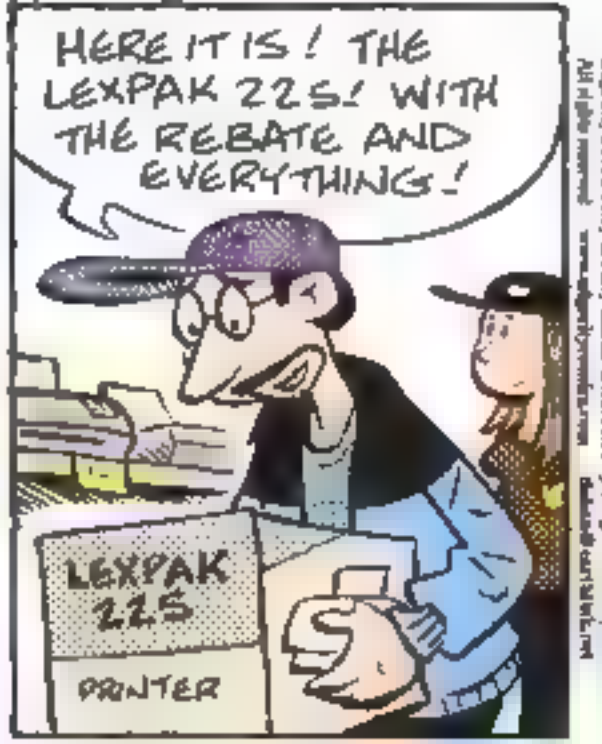

MORNING, SIR! WELCOME TO GREATBUY!
WHERE ARE THE PRINTERS?

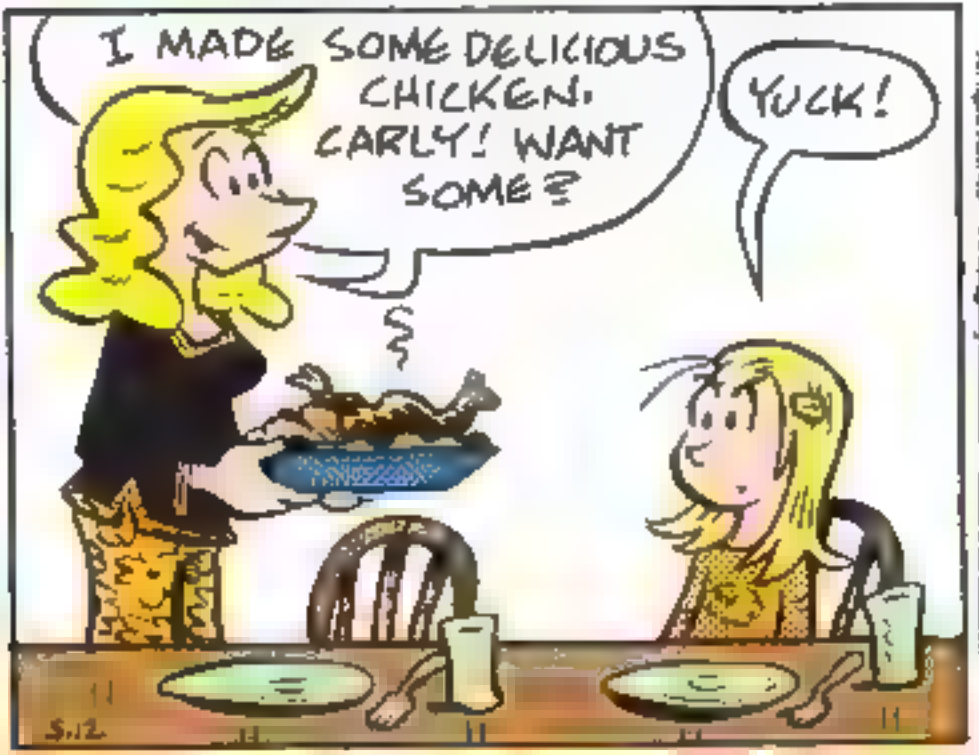

HERE IT IS! THE LEXPAK 225! WITH THE REBATE AND EVERYTHING!
LEXPAK 225
PRINTER

DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT I'VE GONE THROUGH TO GET THIS?
LEX

ARE YOU OK, SIR?
SNIFF! JUST VERY HAPPY.
LEXPAK 225

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE NEW PRINTER?
IT'S FINE.
IT WAS A GREAT DEAL, TOO.
TO GET IT YOU HAD TO DRIVE 300 MILES AND STAY OVERNIGHT IN A MOTEL! I'D HARDLY CALL THAT A DEAL!
I MEAN, A GREAT DEAL IN THE LARGER SENSE.
SIGH!!
5-10

I NEVER TOLD HER I LOVED HER...
ALL SHE DID WAS PICK, PICK, PICK...
SHE ALWAYS SHOWED HER AFFECTION WITH FOOD...
I DON'T KNOW IF I'LL EVER LIVE UP TO HER EXPECTATIONS!
HOW WAS YOUR "MOTHER'S DAY SPECIAL"?
I'VE GOT TO SAY-- IT WAS A HUGE SUCCESS!
Dr. Abby Antin, Ph.D.
Today
All Mother-Related Issues
20% Off



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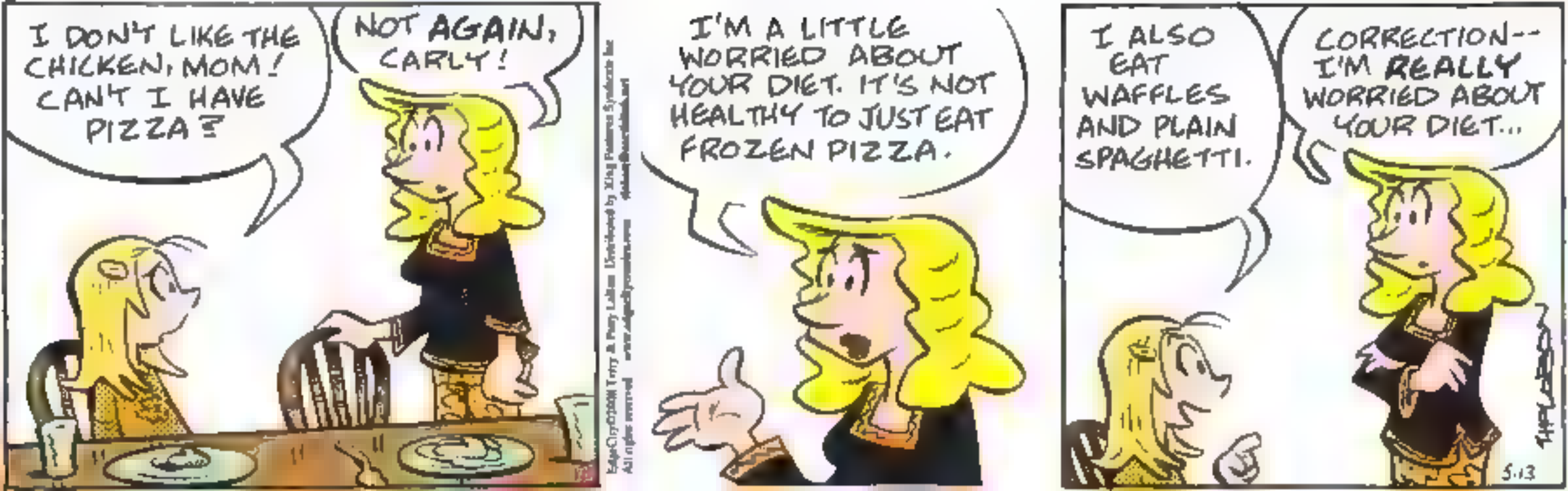
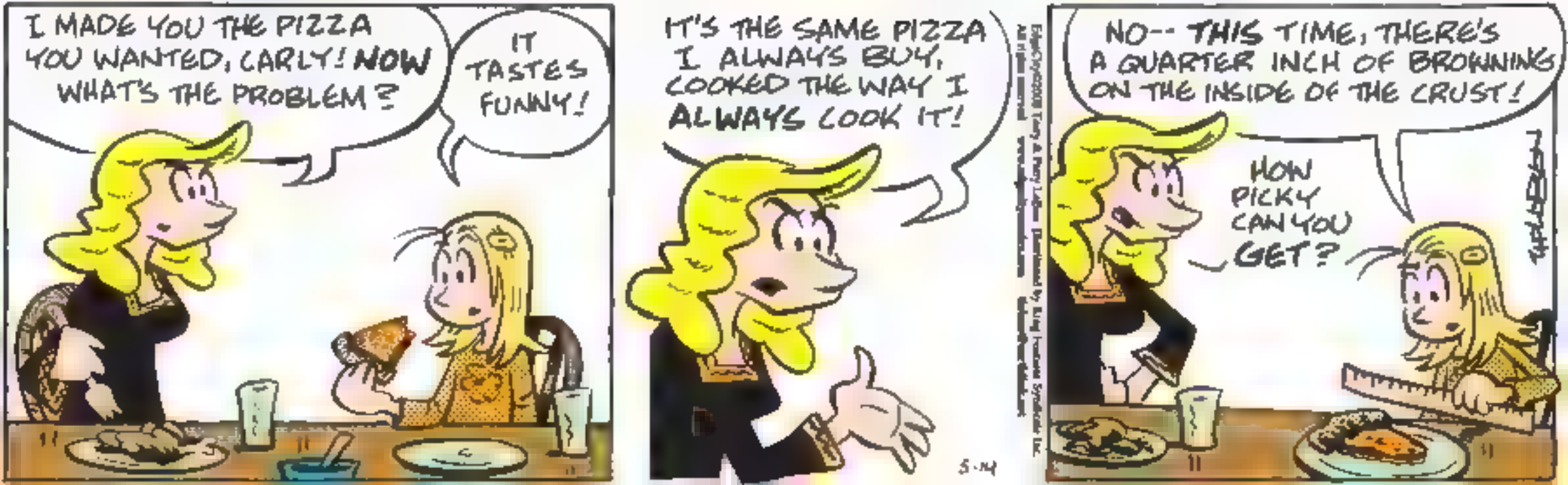
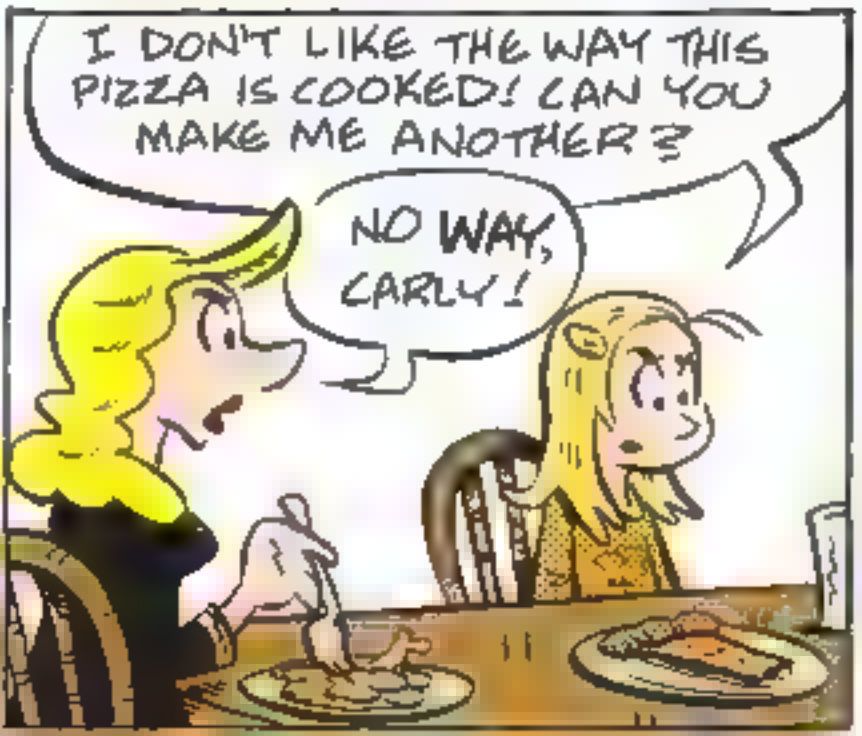

I DON'T LIKE THE CHICKEN, MOM! CAN'T I HAVE PIZZA?
NOT AGAIN, CARLY!
I'M A LITTLE WORRIED ABOUT YOUR DIET. IT'S NOT HEALTHY TO JUST EAT FROZEN PIZZA.
I ALSO EAT WAFFLES AND PLAIN SPAGHETTI.
CORRECTION-- I'M REALLY WORRIED ABOUT YOUR DIET...
5-13


I MADE YOU THE PIZZA YOU WANTED, CARLY! NOW WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?
IT TASTES FUNNY!
IT'S THE SAME PIZZA I ALWAYS BUY, COOKED THE WAY I ALWAYS COOK IT!
5-14
NO-- THIS TIME, THERE'S A QUARTER INCH OF BROWNING ON THE INSIDE OF THE CRUST!
HOW PICKY CAN YOU GET?



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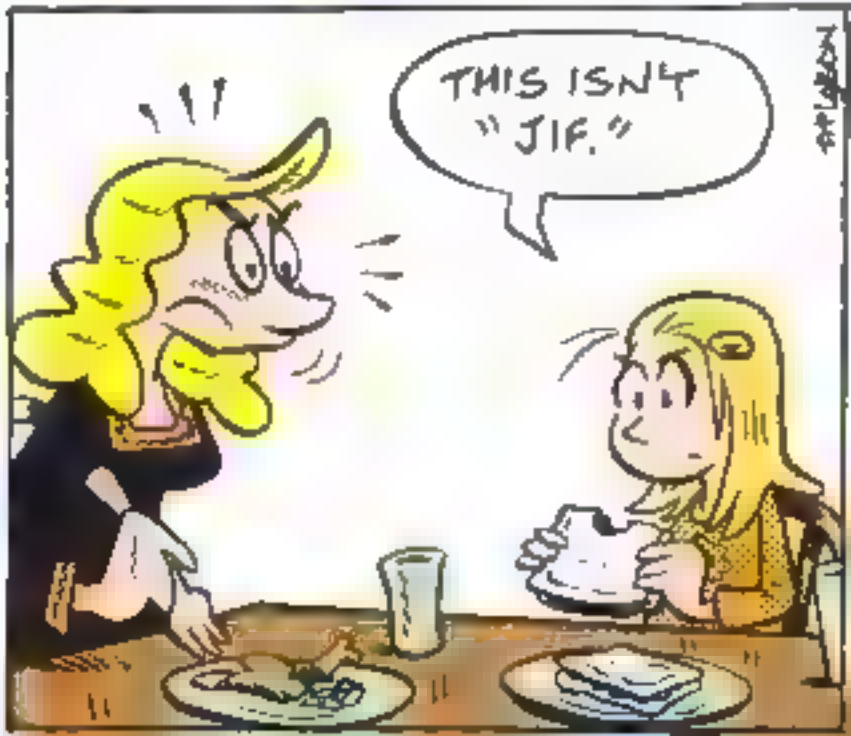
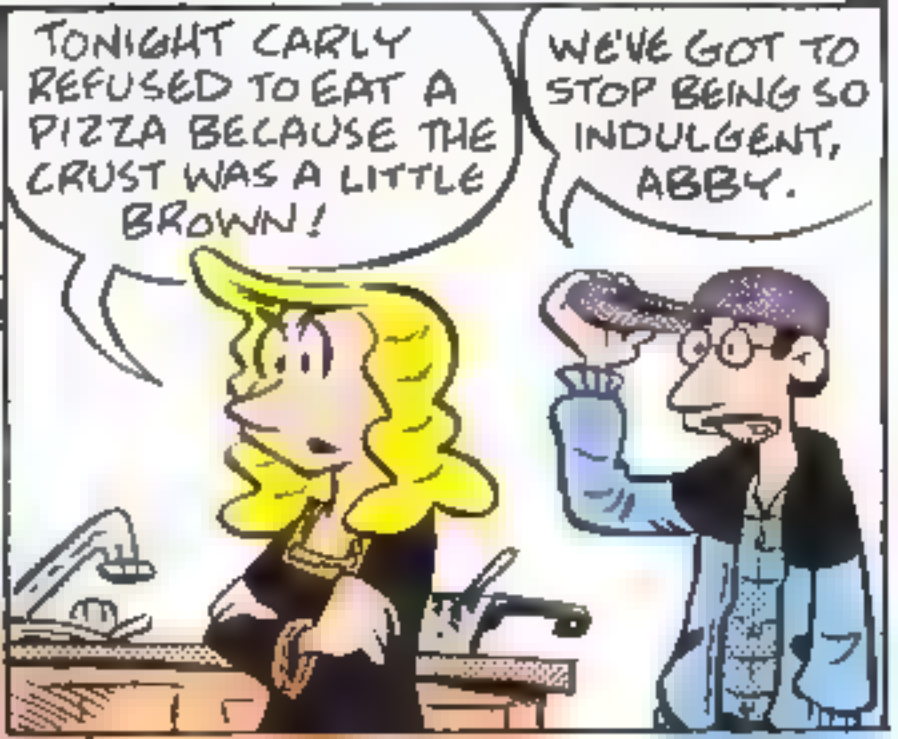


IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE PIZZA AND YOU DON'T LIKE THE PEANUT BUTTER, YOU'RE OUT OF LUCK!
FINE!
YOU'RE NOT EATING ANYTHING FOR SUPPER?
NOPE! I'M DONE.
5.16
CAN I HAVE DESSERT?



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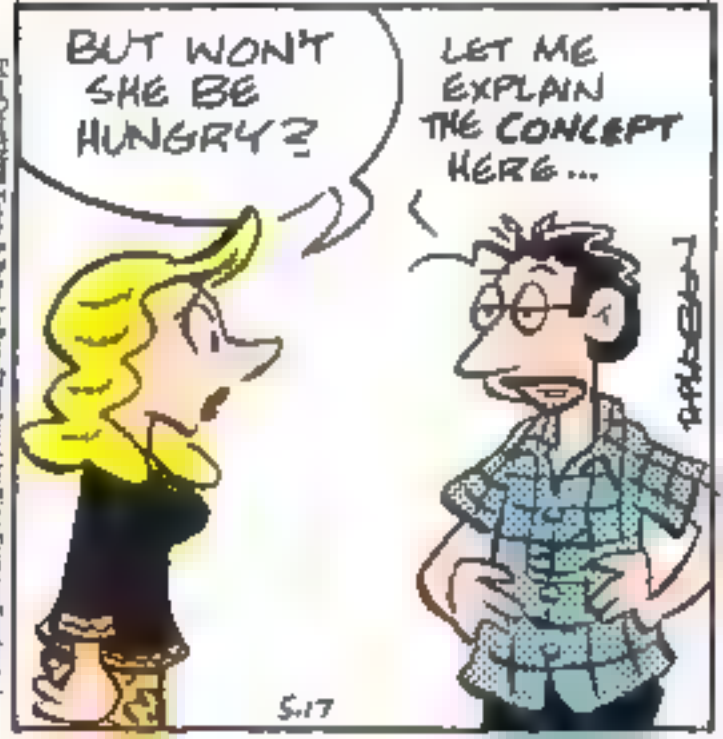
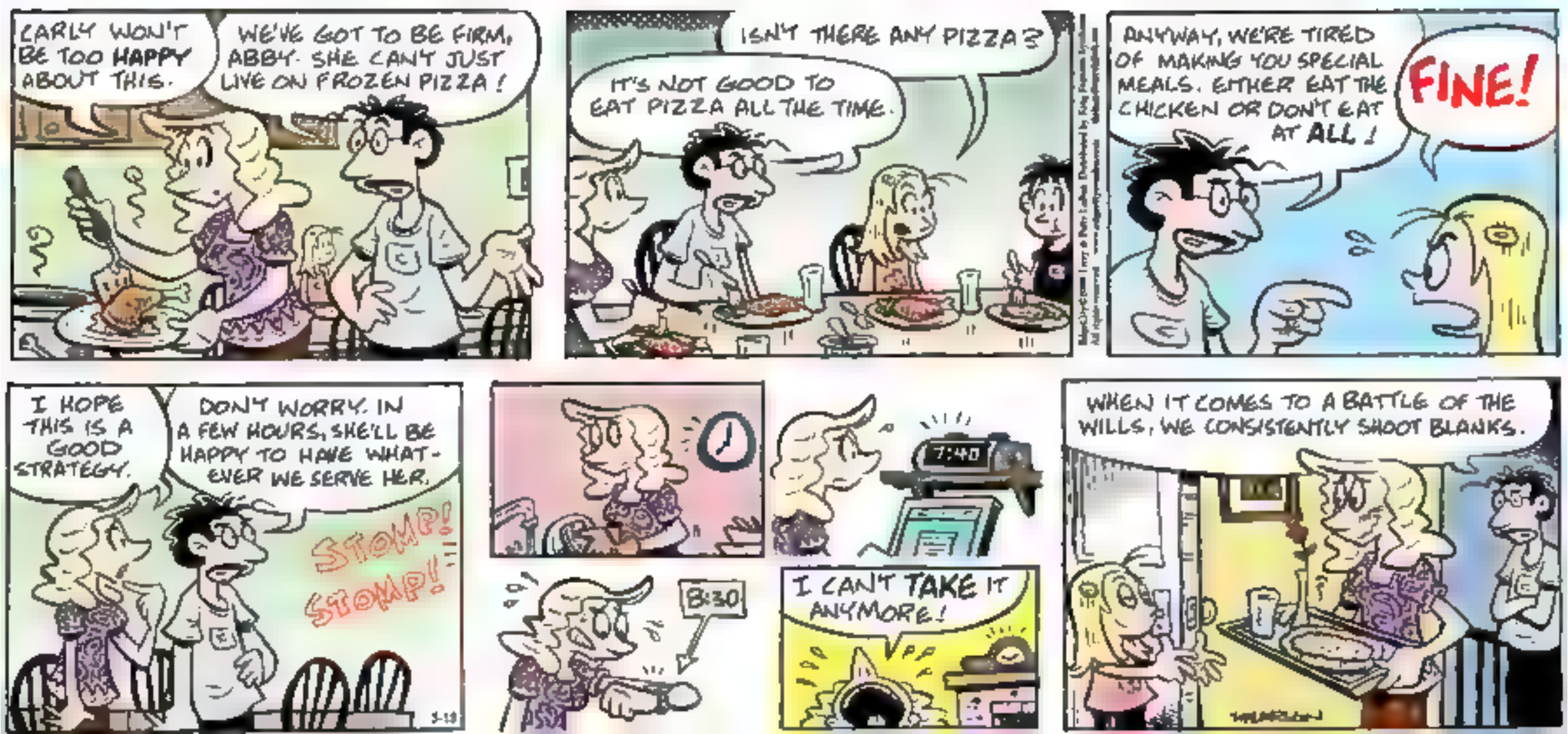
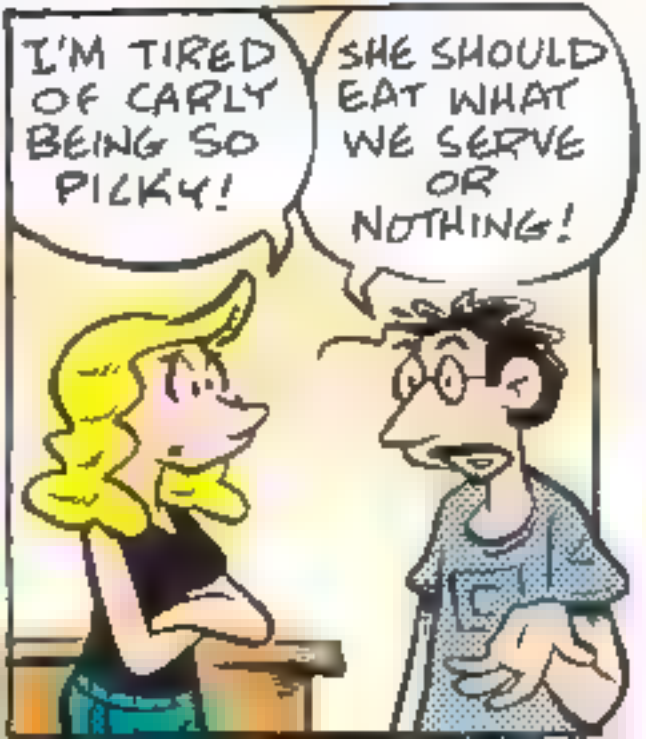
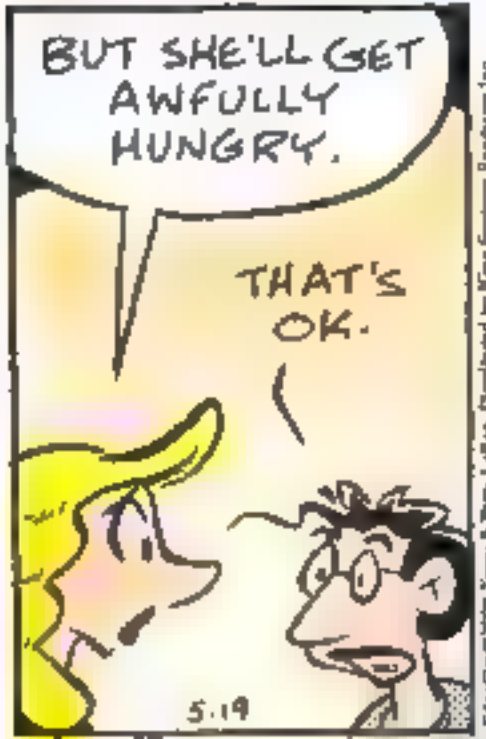



CARLY WON'T BE TOO HAPPY ABOUT THIS.
WE'VE GOT TO BE FIRM, ABBY. SHE CAN'T JUST LIVE ON FROZEN PIZZA!
ISN'T THERE ANY PIZZA?
IT'S NOT GOOD TO EAT PIZZA ALL THE TIME.
ANYWAY, WE'RE TIRED OF MAKING YOU SPECIAL MEALS. EITHER EAT THE CHICKEN OR DON'T EAT AT ALL!
FINE!
I HOPE THIS IS A GOOD STRATEGY.
DON'T WORRY. IN A FEW HOURS, SHE'LL BE HAPPY TO HAVE WHATEVER WE SERVE HER.
STOMP! STOMP!
7:40
8:30
I CAN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE!
WHEN IT COMES TO A BATTLE OF THE WILLS, WE CONSISTENTLY SHOOT BLANKS.





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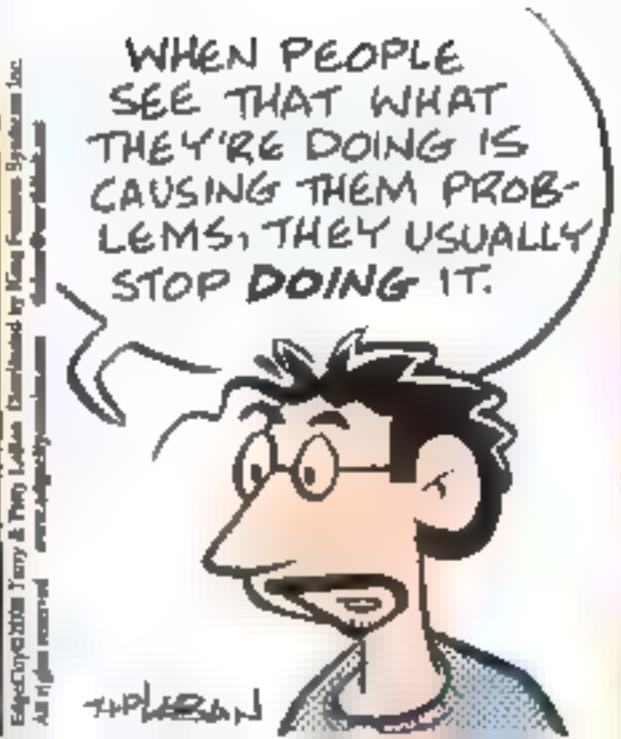
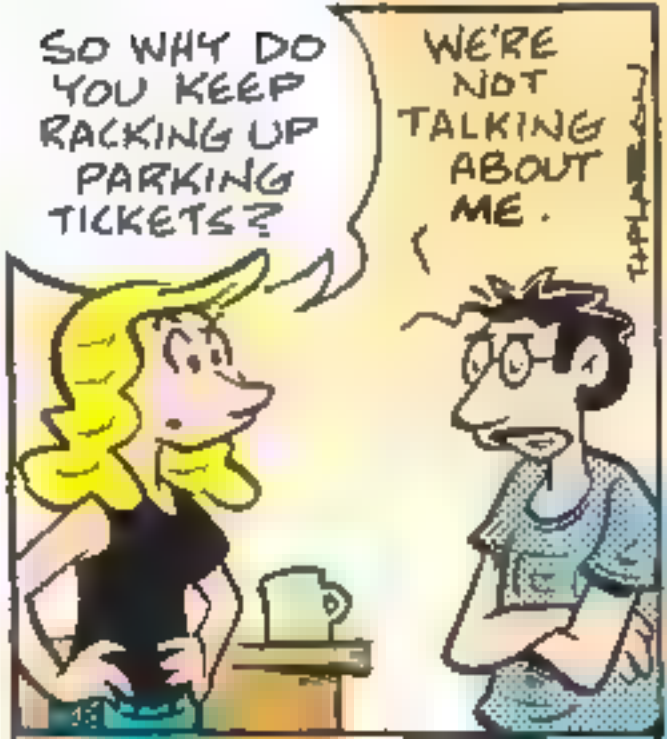
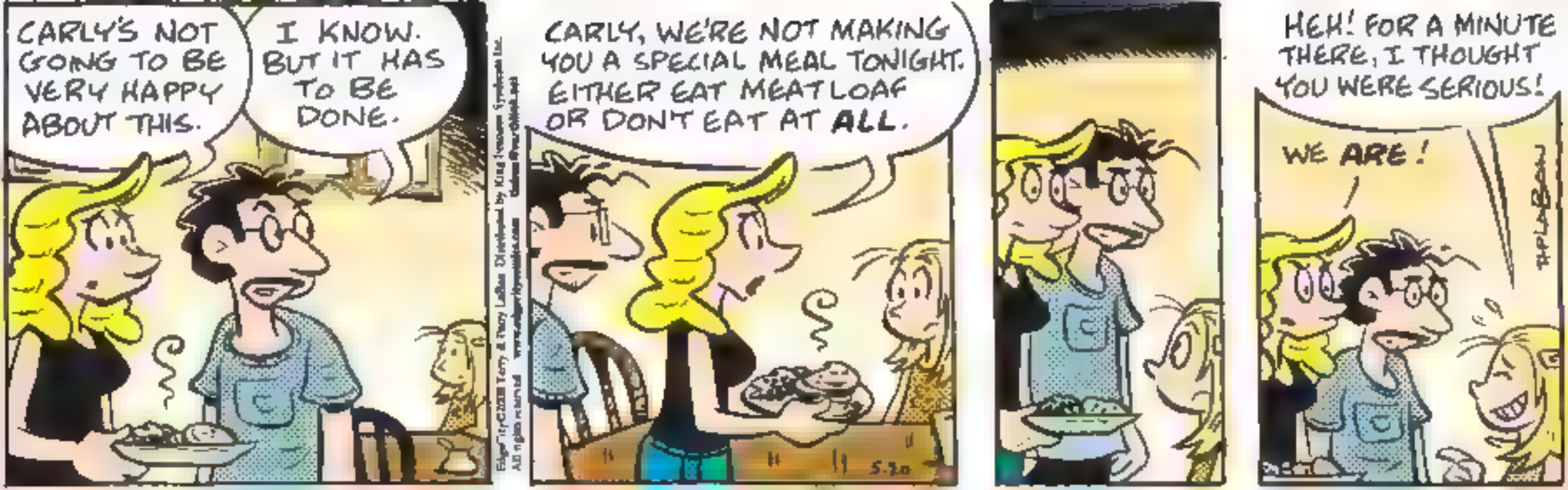
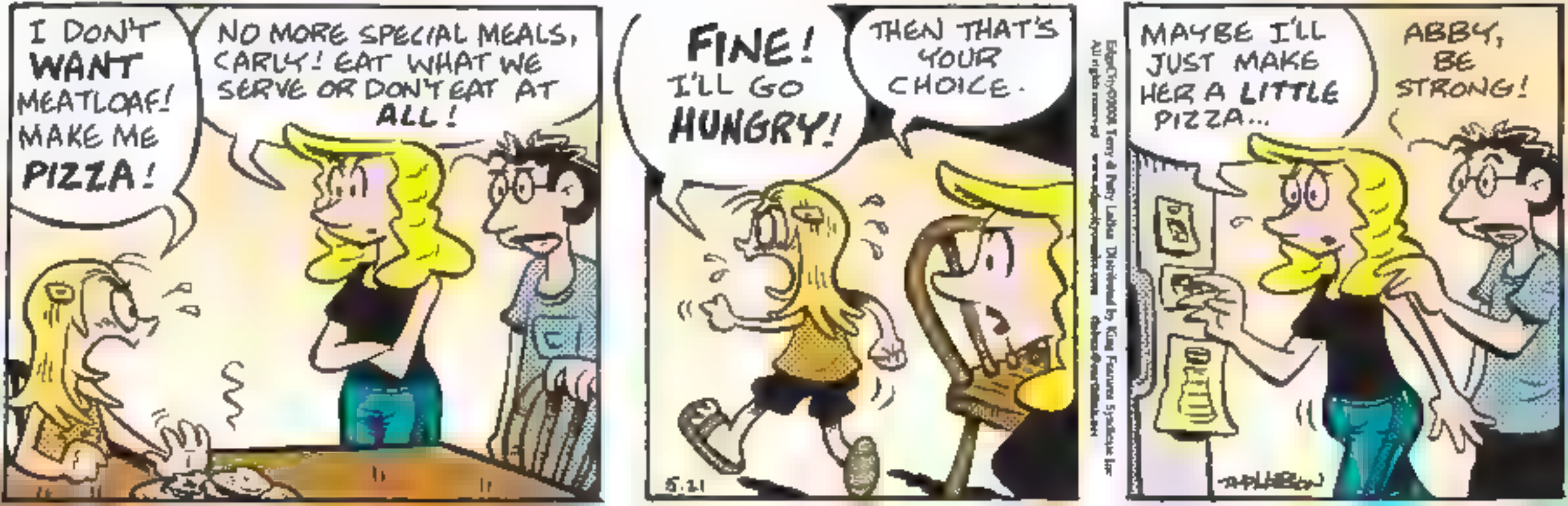
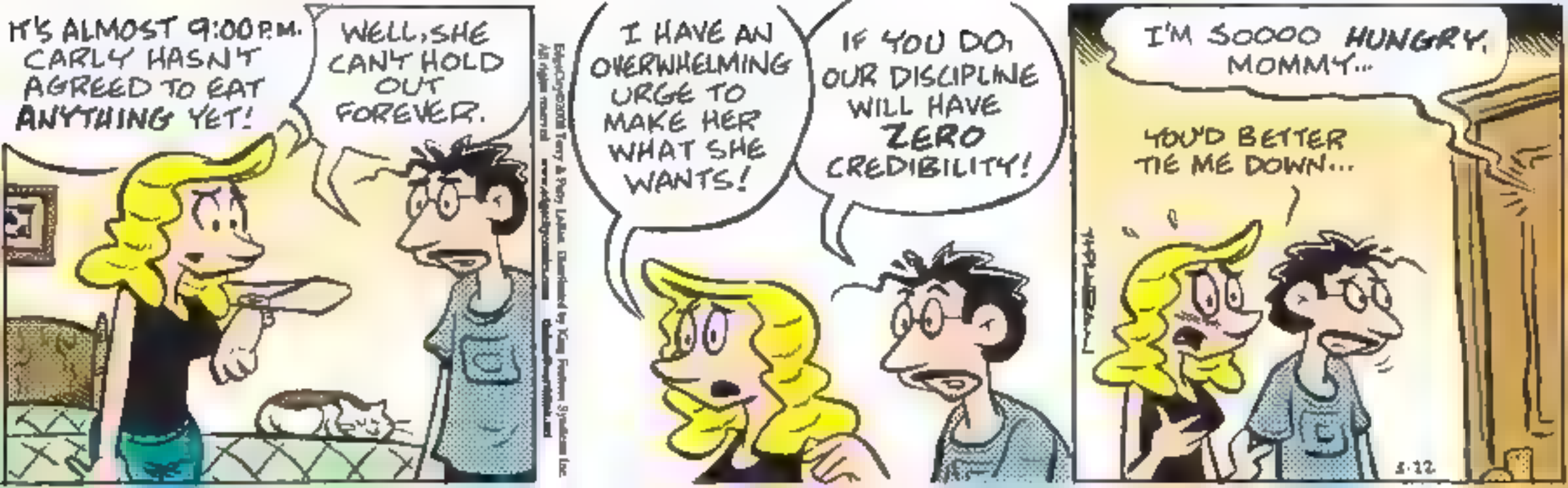
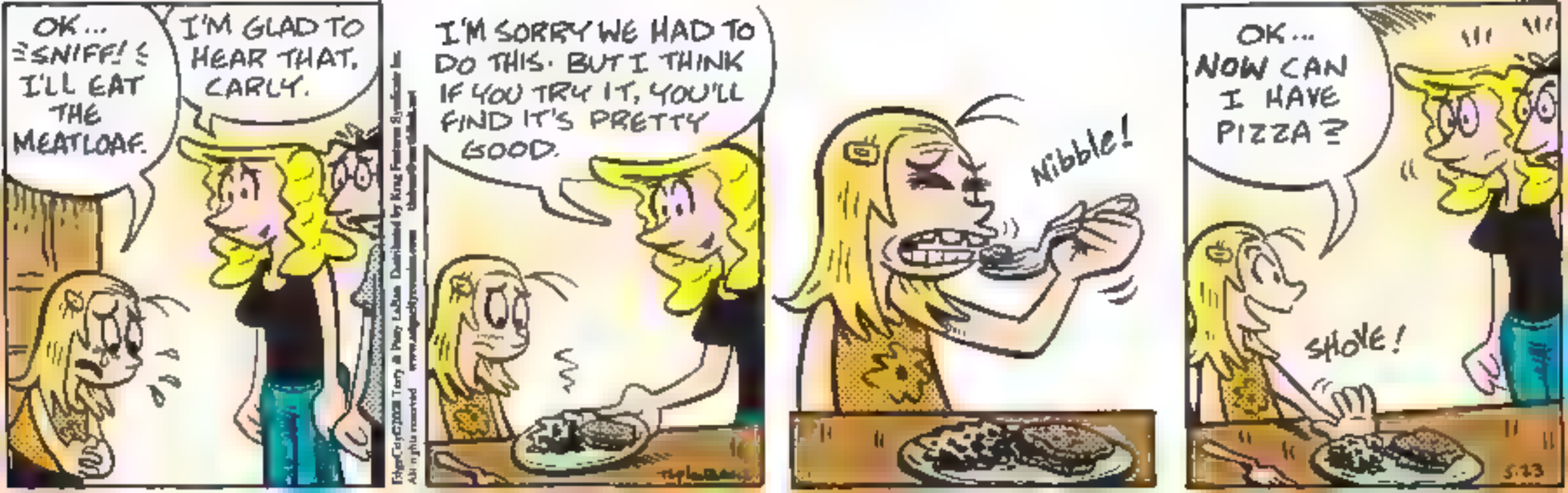


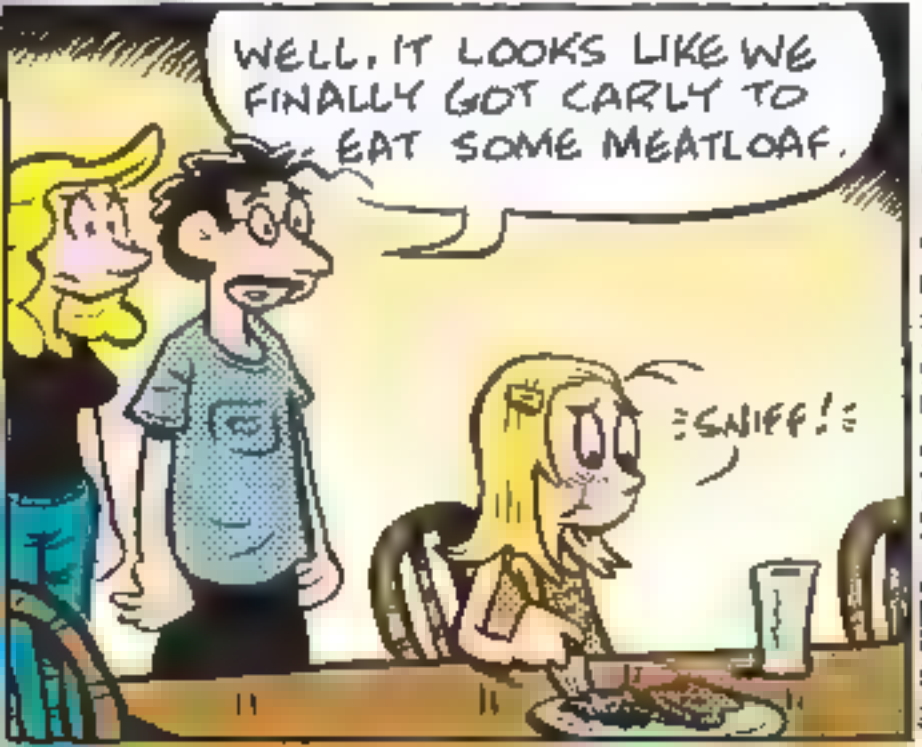



CARLY'S NOT GOING TO BE VERY HAPPY ABOUT THIS.
I KNOW. BUT IT HAS TO BE DONE.
CARLY, WE'RE NOT MAKING YOU A SPECIAL MEAL TONIGHT. EITHER EAT MEATLOAF OR DON'T EAT AT ALL.
HEH! FOR A MINUTE THERE, I THOUGHT YOU WERE SERIOUS!
WE ARE!


I DON'T WANT MEATLOAF! MAKE ME PIZZA!
NO MORE SPECIAL MEALS, CARLY! EAT WHAT WE SERVE OR DON'T EAT AT ALL!
FINE! I'LL GO HUNGRY!
THEN THAT'S YOUR CHOICE.
MAYBE I'LL JUST MAKE HER A LITTLE PIZZA...
ABBY, BE STRONG!


IT'S ALMOST 9:00 P.M. CARLY HASN'T AGREED TO EAT ANYTHING YET!
WELL, SHE CAN'T HOLD OUT FOREVER.
I HAVE AN OVERWHELMING URGE TO MAKE HER WHAT SHE WANTS!
IF YOU DO, OUR DISCIPLINE WILL HAVE ZERO CREDIBILITY!
I'M SOOOO HUNGRY, MOMMY...
YOU'D BETTER TIE ME DOWN...
5-12


OK... SNIFF! I'LL EAT THE MEATLOAF.
I'M GLAD TO HEAR THAT, CARLY.
I'M SORRY WE HAD TO DO THIS. BUT I THINK IF YOU TRY IT, YOU'LL FIND IT'S PRETTY GOOD.
Nibble!
OK... NOW CAN I HAVE PIZZA?
SHOVE!



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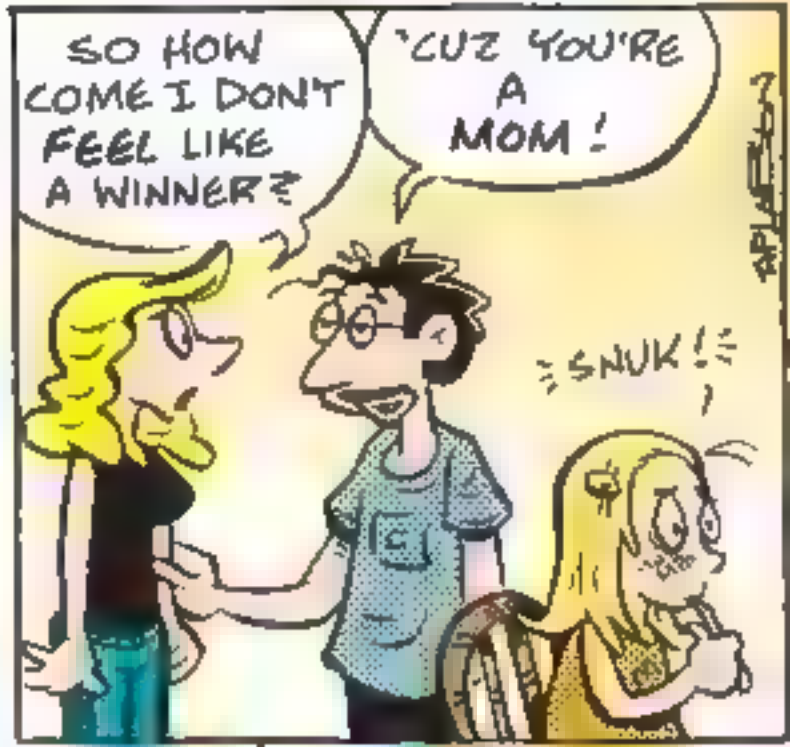
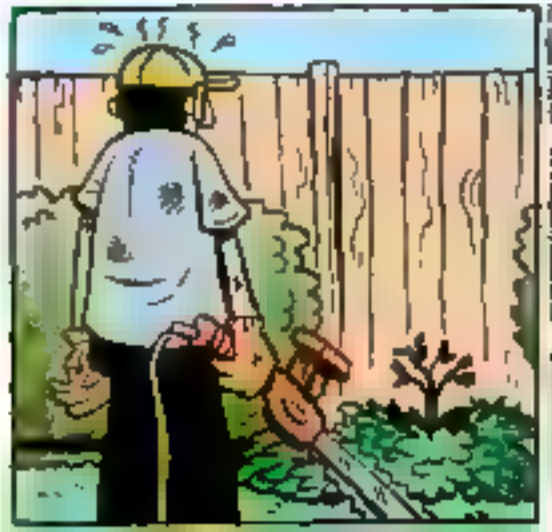
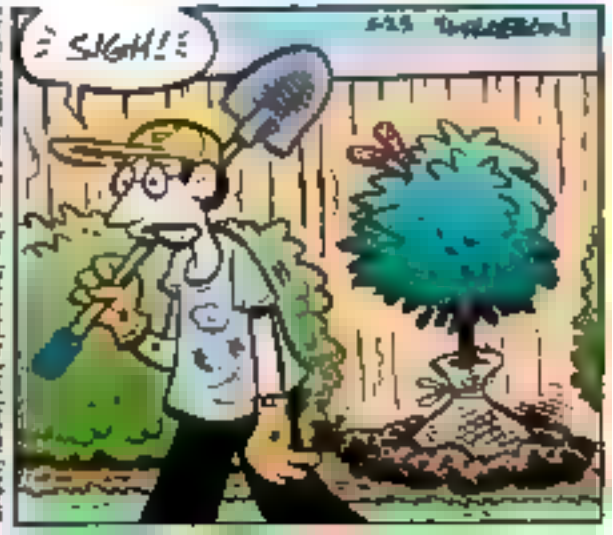


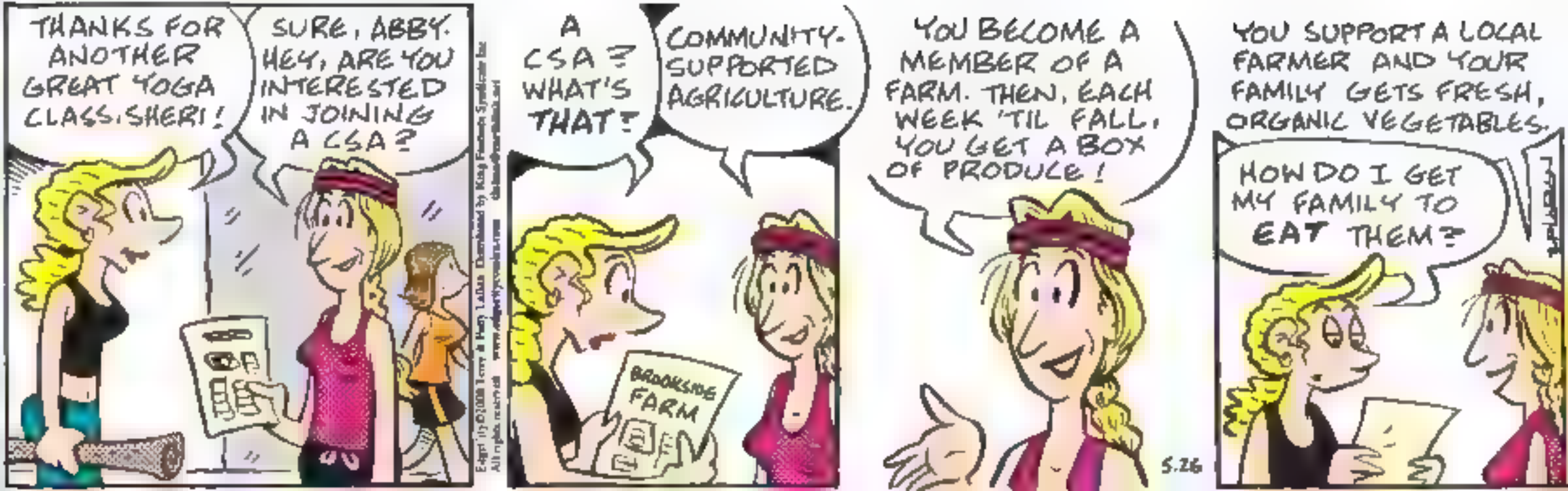
BUZZ!

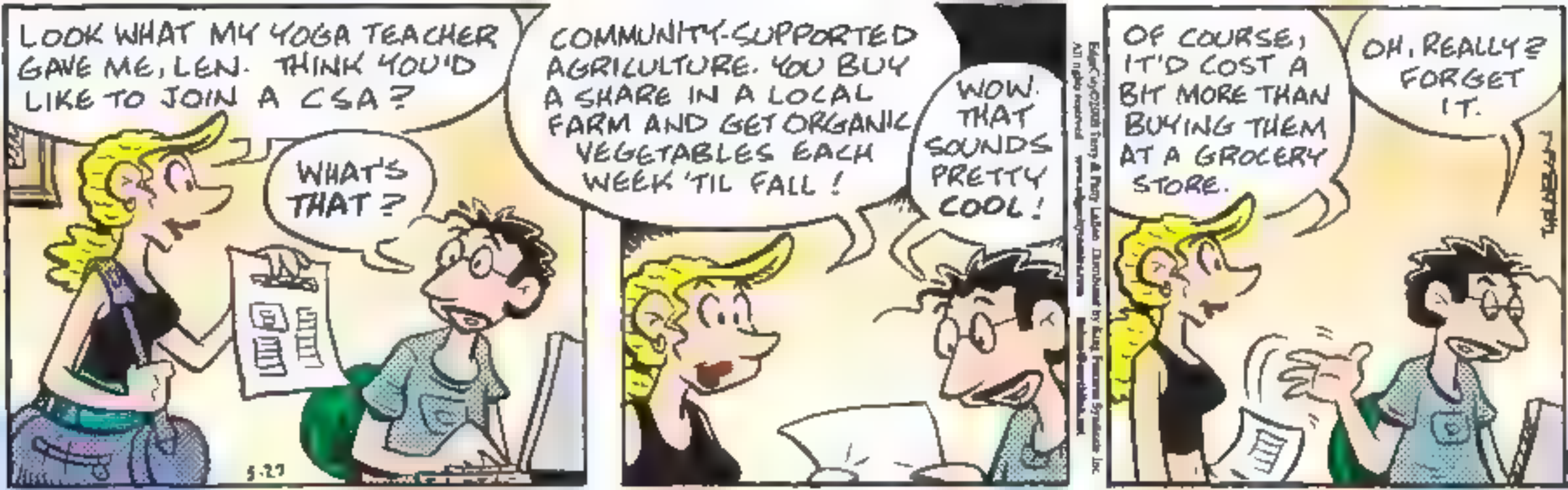
BUZZ! BUZZ!

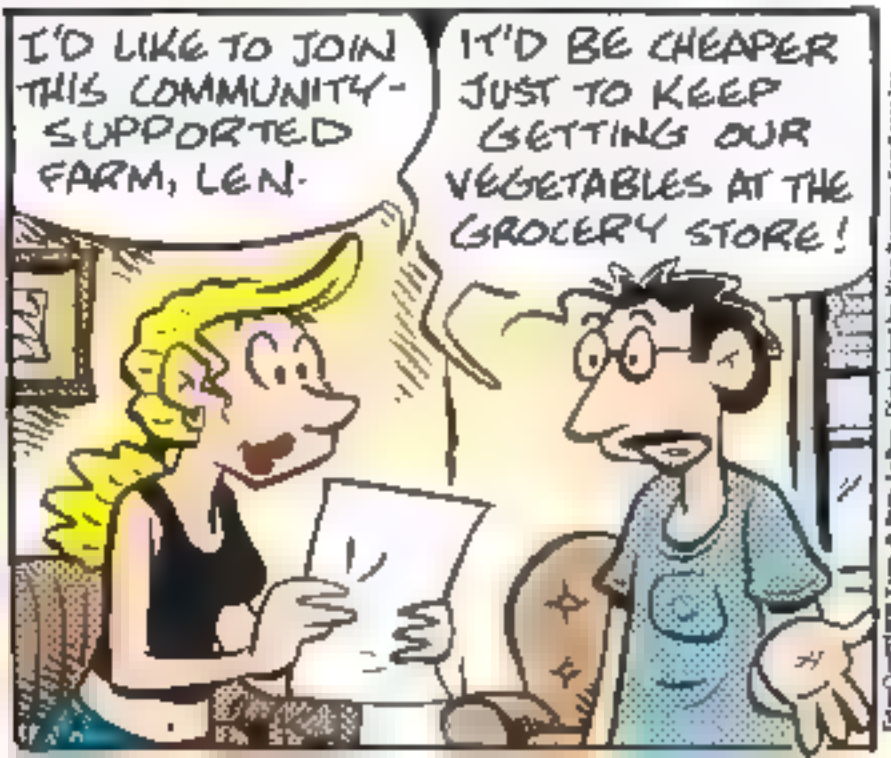
BUZZ! BUZZ!
BUZZ!!



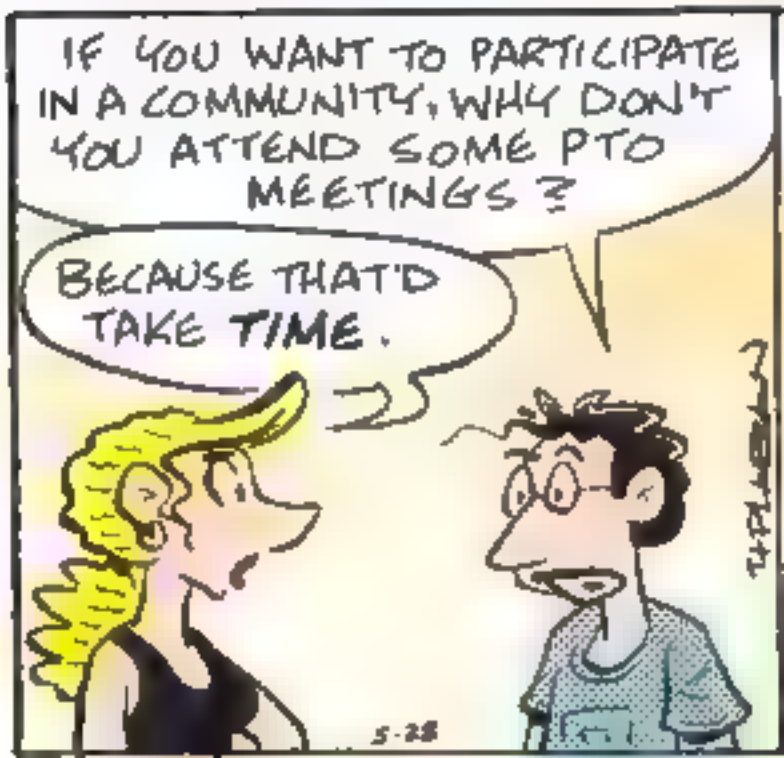

SIGH!


THANKS FOR ANOTHER GREAT YOGA CLASS, SHERI!
SURE, ABBY. HEY, ARE YOU INTERESTED IN JOINING A CSA?
A CSA? WHAT'S THAT?
COMMUNITY-SUPPORTED AGRICULTURE.
BROOKSIDE FARM
YOU BECOME A MEMBER OF A FARM. THEN, EACH WEEK 'TIL FALL, YOU GET A BOX OF PRODUCE!
5.26
YOU SUPPORT A LOCAL FARMER AND YOUR FAMILY GETS FRESH, ORGANIC VEGETABLES.
HOW DO I GET MY FAMILY TO EAT THEM?

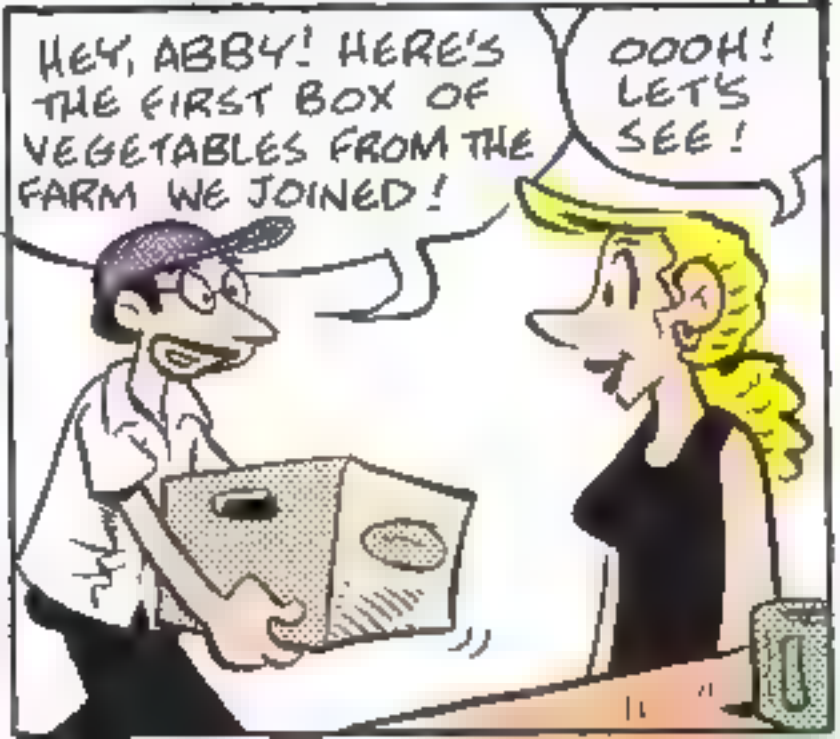

LOOK WHAT MY YOGA TEACHER GAVE ME, LEN. THINK YOU'D LIKE TO JOIN A CSA?
WHAT'S THAT?
COMMUNITY-SUPPORTED AGRICULTURE. YOU BUY A SHARE IN A LOCAL FARM AND GET ORGANIC VEGETABLES EACH WEEK 'TIL FALL!
WOW. THAT SOUNDS PRETTY COOL!
OF COURSE, IT'D COST A BIT MORE THAN BUYING THEM AT A GROCERY STORE.
OH, REALLY? FORGET IT.


I'D LIKE TO JOIN THIS COMMUNITY-SUPPORTED FARM, LEN.
IT'D BE CHEAPER JUST TO KEEP GETTING OUR VEGETABLES AT THE GROCERY STORE!

BUT THESE WOULD BE FRESH AND ORGANIC. AND WE'D REALLY BE PARTICIPATING IN A COMMUNITY.


IF YOU WANT TO PARTICIPATE IN A COMMUNITY, WHY DON'T YOU ATTEND SOME PTO MEETINGS?
BECAUSE THAT'D TAKE TIME.
5-28

LEN, TODAY'S THE DAY YOU PICK UP THE FIRST BOX OF PRODUCE FROM THE FARM WE JOINED.
ON SOMEONE'S PORCH, RIGHT? IT SEEMS KIND OF WEIRD.
IT'LL BE FINE. IT'LL MAKE YOU FEEL LIKE PART OF A COMMUNITY.
THAT SEEMS UNLIKELY.
5-29
YOU'RE STILL PICKING UP THE VEGETABLES? WHAT'S TAKING SO LONG?!
'NOTHER BEER?



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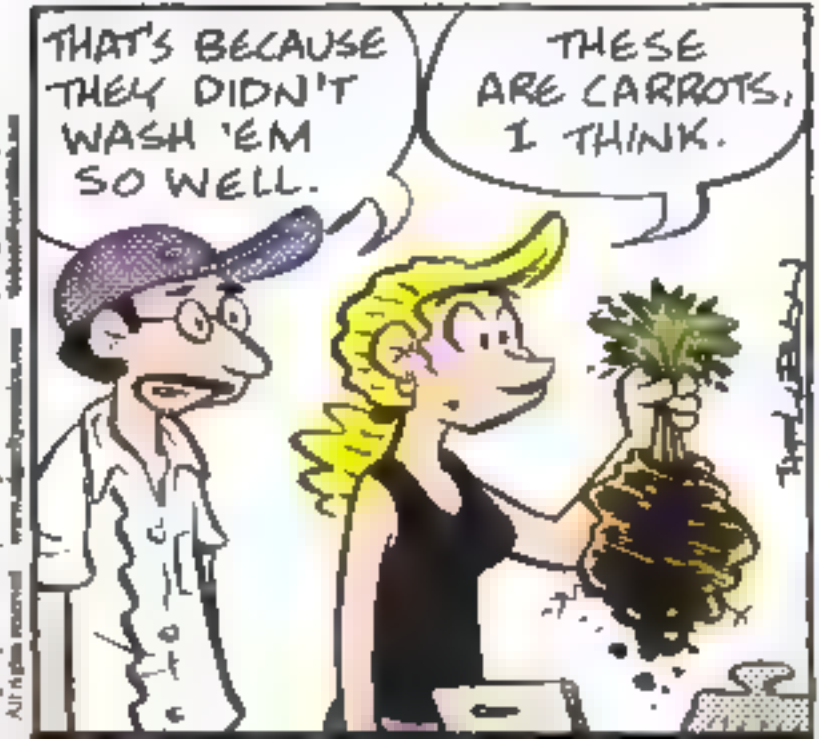
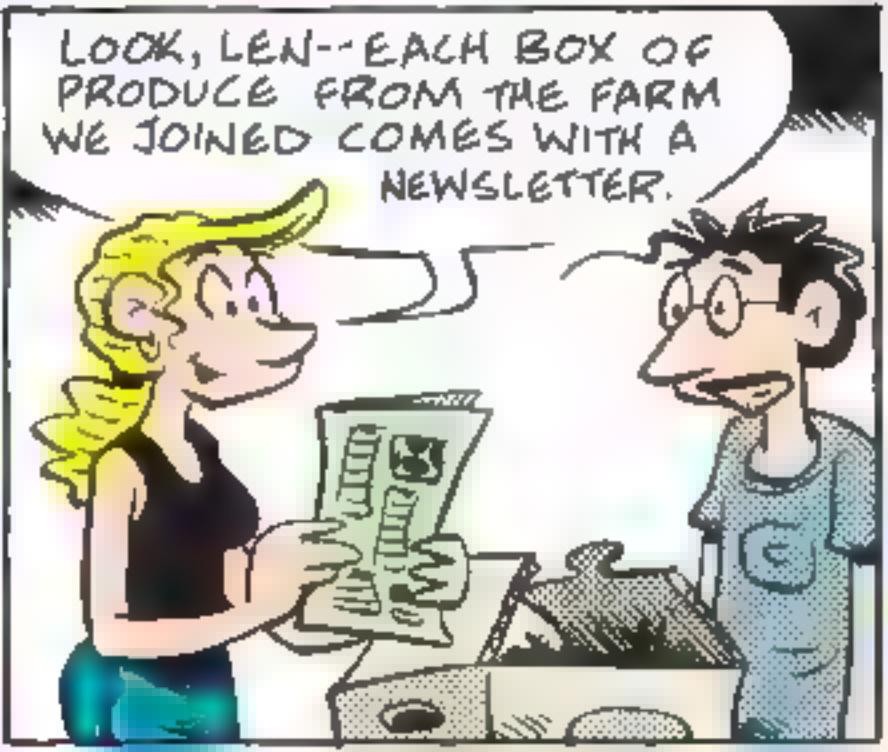
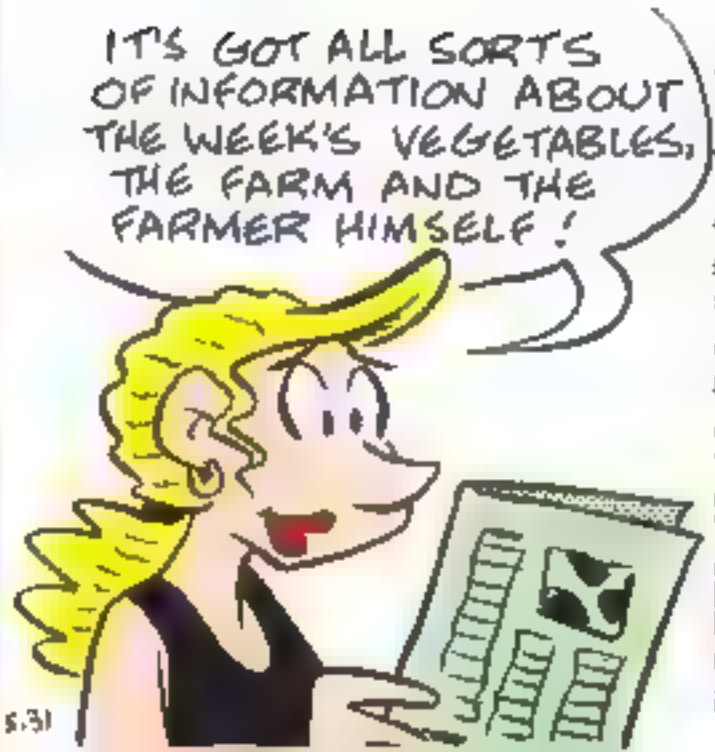
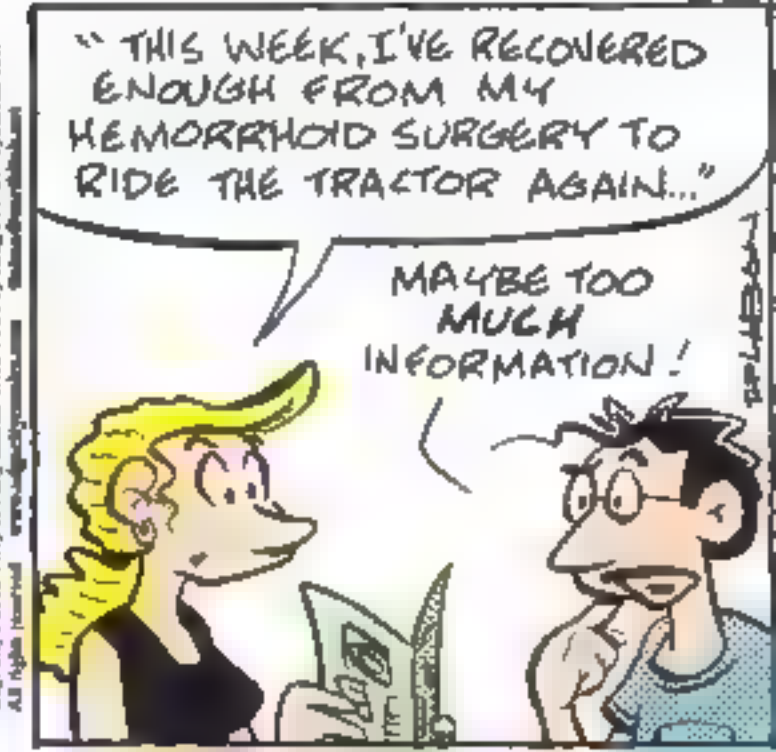
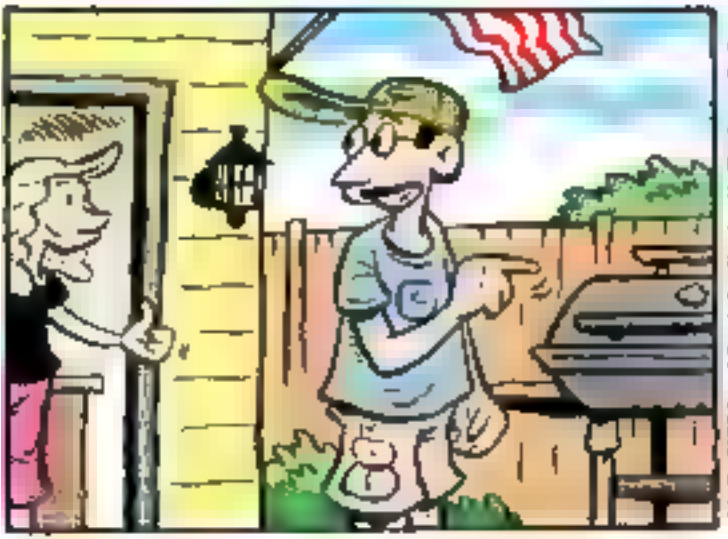



LOOK, LEN--EACH BOX OF PRODUCE FROM THE FARM WE JOINED COMES WITH A NEWSLETTER.

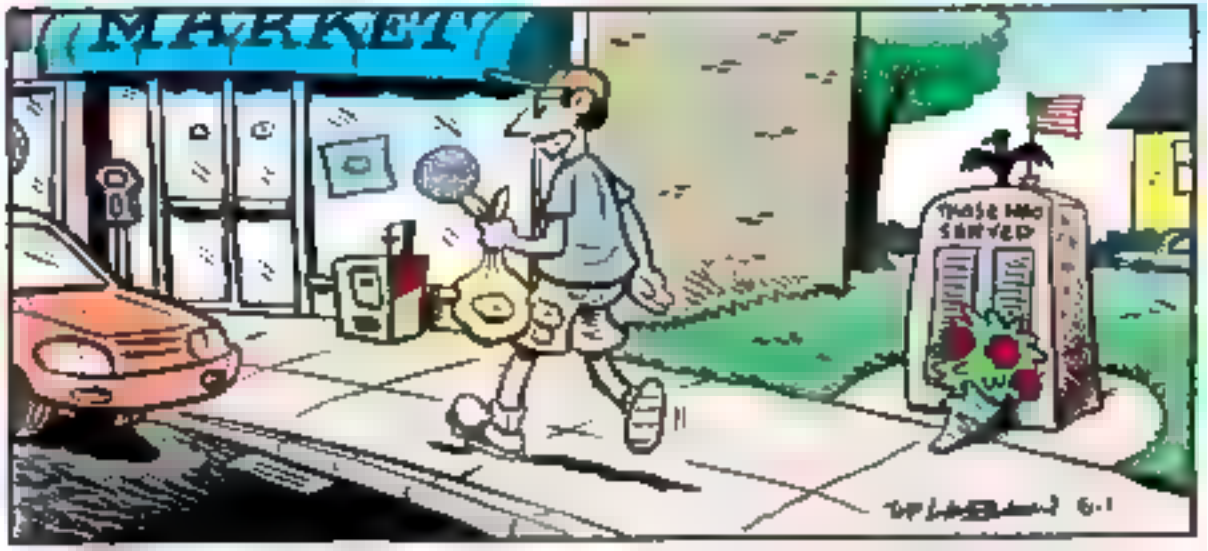

IT'S GOT ALL SORTS OF INFORMATION ABOUT THE WEEK'S VEGETABLES, THE FARM AND THE FARMER HIMSELF!

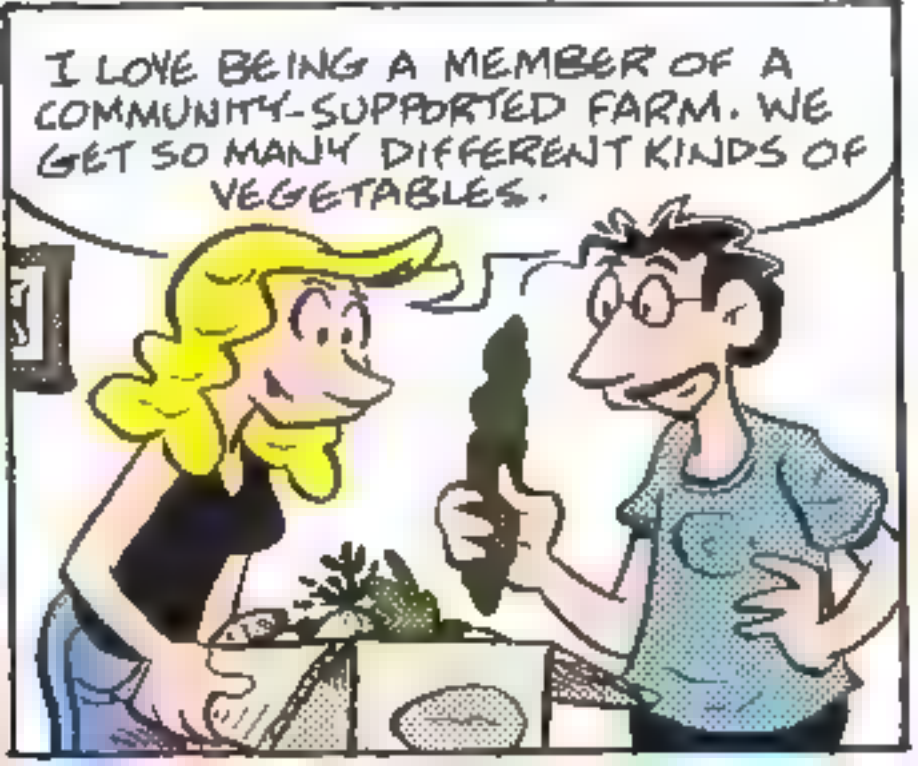

"THIS WEEK, I'VE RECOVERED ENOUGH FROM MY HEMORRHOID SURGERY TO RIDE THE TRACTOR AGAIN..."
MAYBE TOO MUCH INFORMATION!

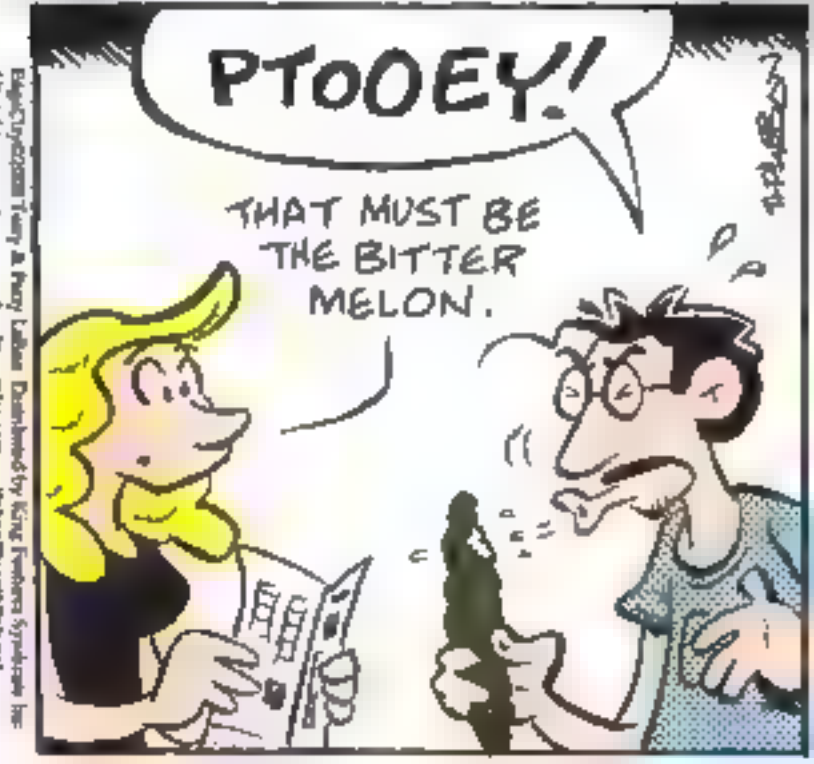


MARKE

HOT DOGS


MARKET
THOSE WHO SERVED





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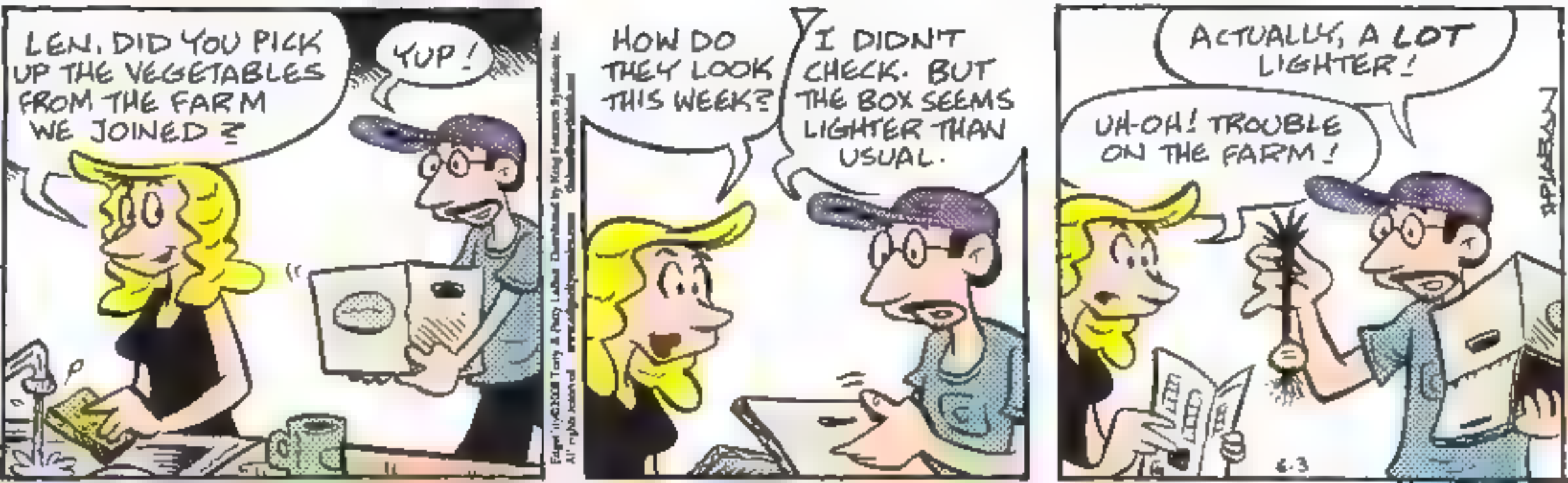
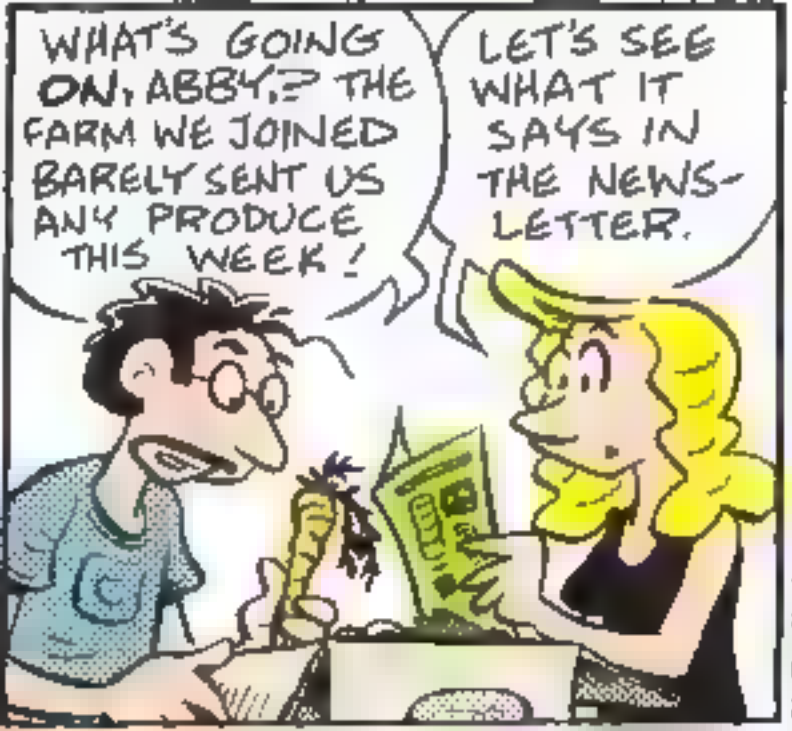
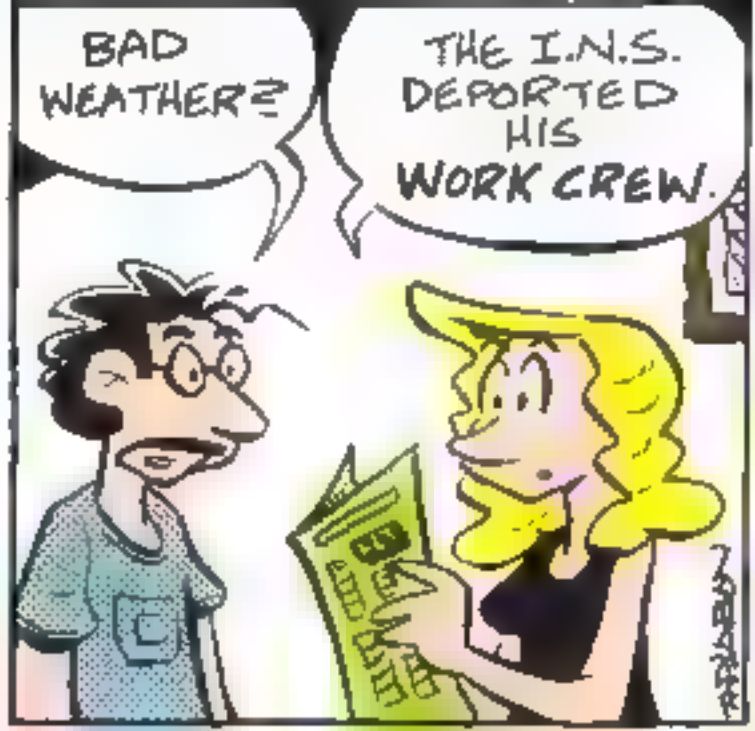
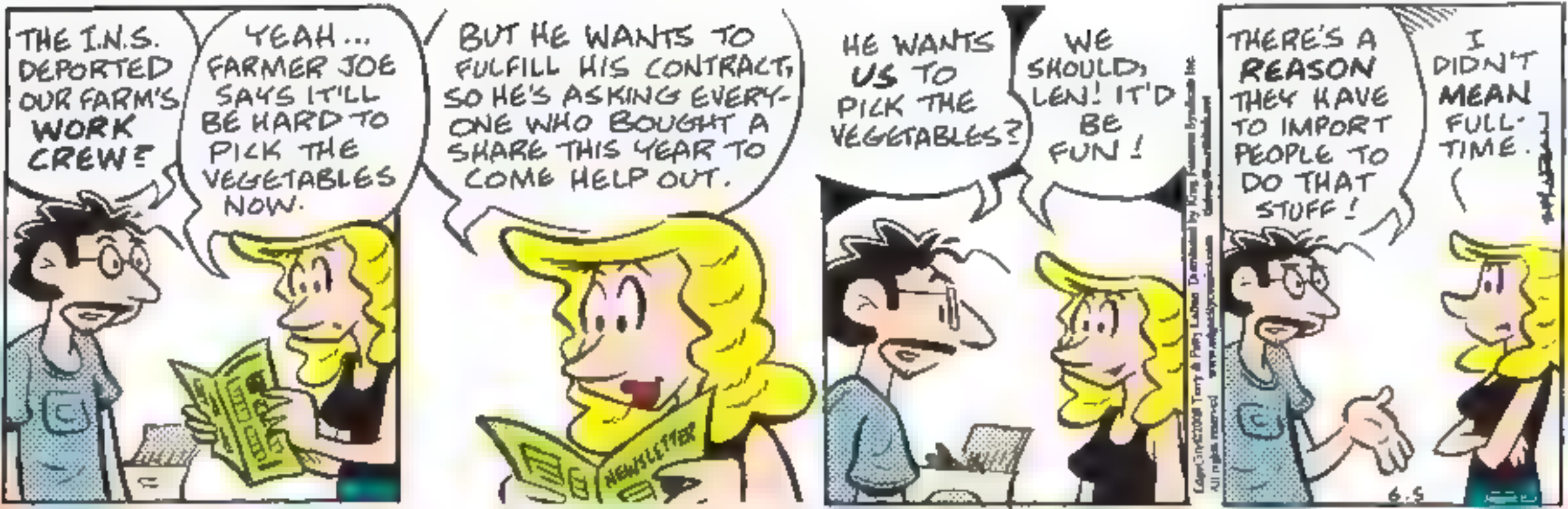
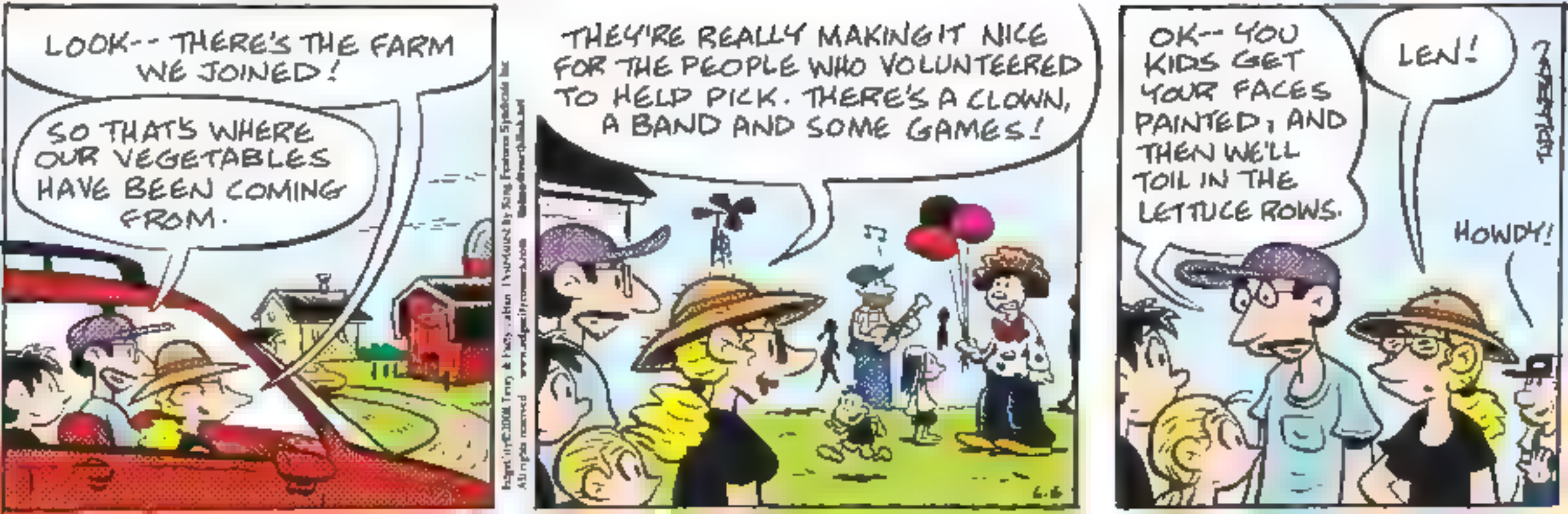

LEN, DID YOU PICK UP THE VEGETABLES FROM THE FARM WE JOINED?
YUP!
HOW DO THEY LOOK THIS WEEK?
I DIDN'T CHECK. BUT THE BOX SEEMS LIGHTER THAN USUAL.
ACTUALLY, A LOT LIGHTER!
UH-OH! TROUBLE ON THE FARM!
6-3

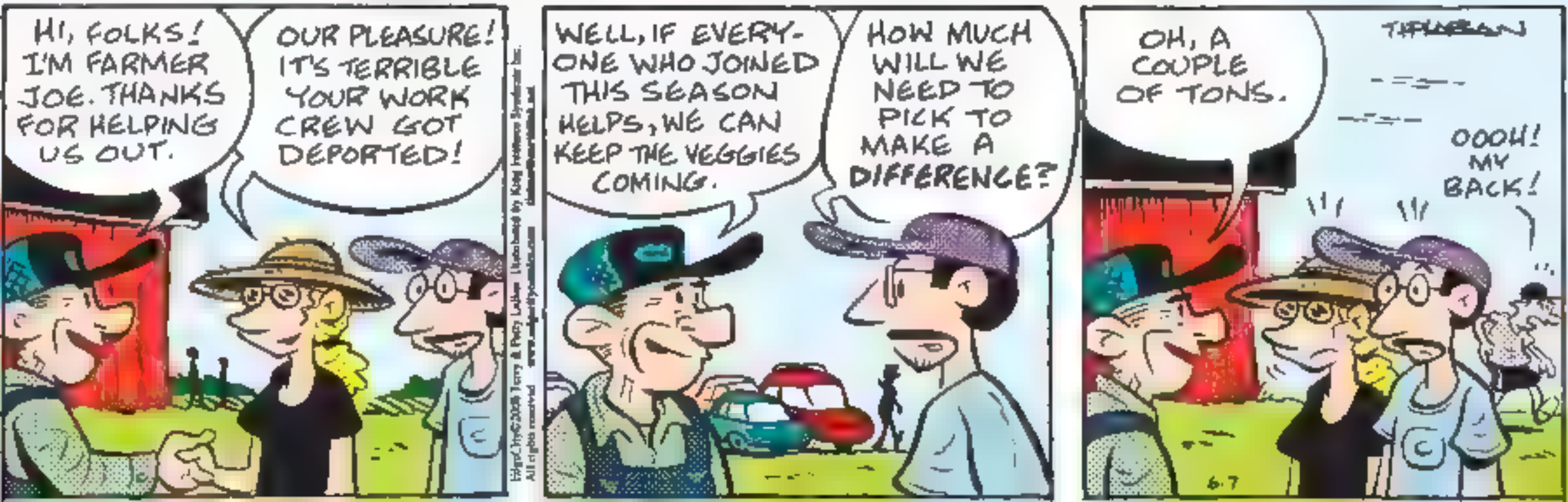

WHAT'S GOING ON, ABBY? THE FARM WE JOINED BARELY SENT US ANY PRODUCE THIS WEEK!
LET'S SEE WHAT IT SAYS IN THE NEWS-LETTER.

FARMER JOE APOLOGIZES, BUT HE'S HAD THE SORT OF TROUBLE FARMERS OFTEN HAVE IN OUR AREA.
MOOKSIDE FARM


BAD WEATHER?
THE I.N.S. DEPORTED HIS WORK CREW.


THE I.N.S. DEPORTED OUR FARM'S WORK CREW!
YEAH... FARMER JOE SAYS IT'LL BE HARD TO PICK THE VEGETABLES NOW.
BUT HE WANTS TO FULFILL HIS CONTRACT, SO HE'S ASKING EVERYONE WHO BOUGHT A SHARE THIS YEAR TO COME HELP OUT.
NEWSLETTER
HE WANTS US TO PICK THE VEGETABLES?
WE SHOULD, LEN! IT'D BE FUN!
THERE'S A REASON THEY HAVE TO IMPORT PEOPLE TO DO THAT STUFF!
I DIDN'T MEAN FULL-TIME.


LOOK-- THERE'S THE FARM WE JOINED!
SO THAT'S WHERE OUR VEGETABLES HAVE BEEN COMING FROM.
THEY'RE REALLY MAKING IT NICE FOR THE PEOPLE WHO VOLUNTEERED TO HELP PICK. THERE'S A CLOWN, A BAND AND SOME GAMES!
OK-- YOU KIDS GET YOUR FACES PAINTED, AND THEN WE'LL TOIL IN THE LETTUCE ROWS.
LEN!
HOWDY!


HI, FOLKS! I'M FARMER JOE. THANKS FOR HELPING US OUT.
OUR PLEASURE! IT'S TERRIBLE YOUR WORK CREW GOT DEPORTED!
WELL, IF EVERYONE WHO JOINED THIS SEASON HELPS, WE CAN KEEP THE VEGGIES COMING.
HOW MUCH WILL WE NEED TO PICK TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE?
OH, A COUPLE OF TONS.
OOOH! MY BACK!

LOOK, LEN-- WE GOT $600 FROM THE IRS!
IT MUST BE OUR ECONOMIC STIMULUS CHECK!
WELL, THIS'LL HELP WITH SOME BILLS!
NO, ABBY-- WE CAN'T!
THE PURPOSE OF THAT CHECK IS TO STIMULATE THE ECONOMY... TO KEEP THIS COUNTRY OUT OF RECESSION!
WE HAVE A PATRIOTIC DUTY TO GO OUT IMMEDIATELY AND BLOW EVERY CENT OF THAT...
...FOR THE SAKE OF OUR FUTURE, OUR CHILDREN'S FUTURE, AND THE FUTURE OF THIS GREAT LAND!
THAT'LL BE $599.47.
GOD BLESS AMERICA!

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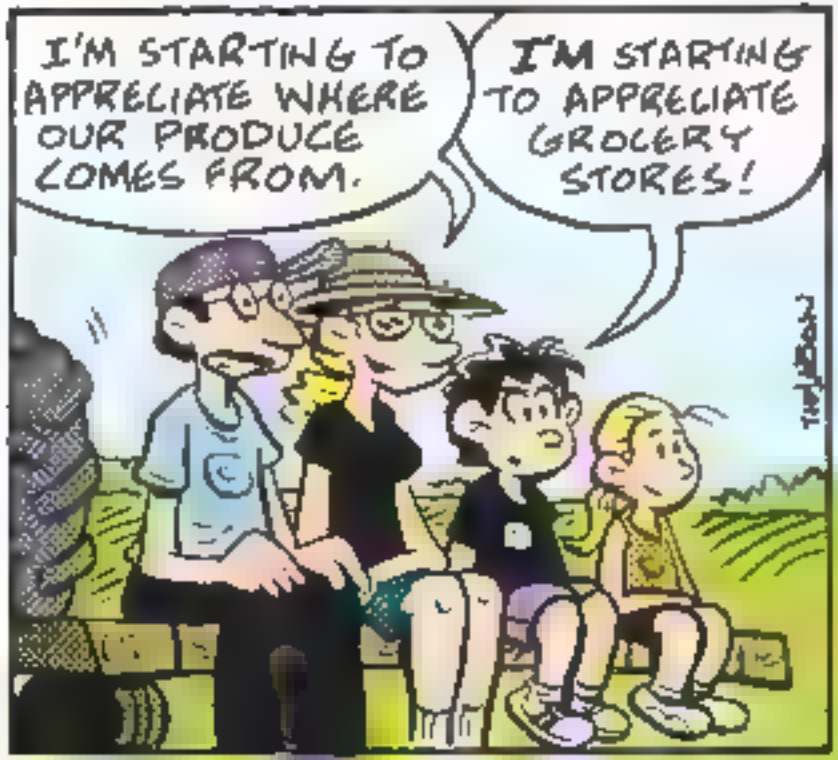
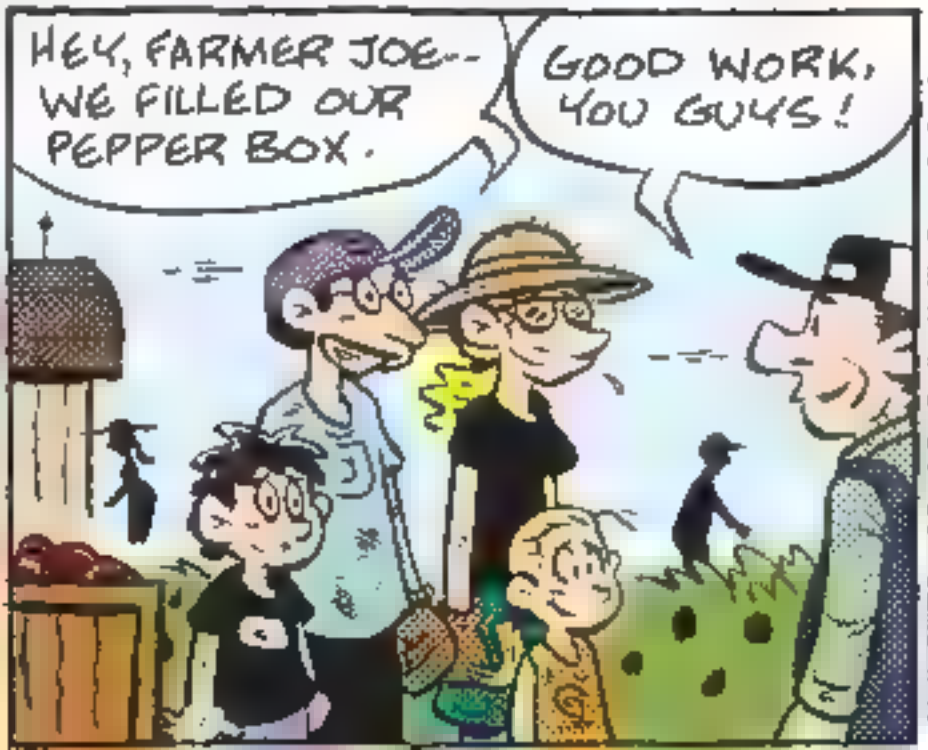


I'M REALLY GLAD WE VOLUNTEERED TO HELP OUT ON THE FARM WE JOINED.
IT'S HARD WORK, THOUGH!
IT'S GOOD TO SPEND SOME TIME DOING PHYSICAL LABOR. A LITTLE HARD WORK NEVER HURT ANYONE.
6-10
CRACK!



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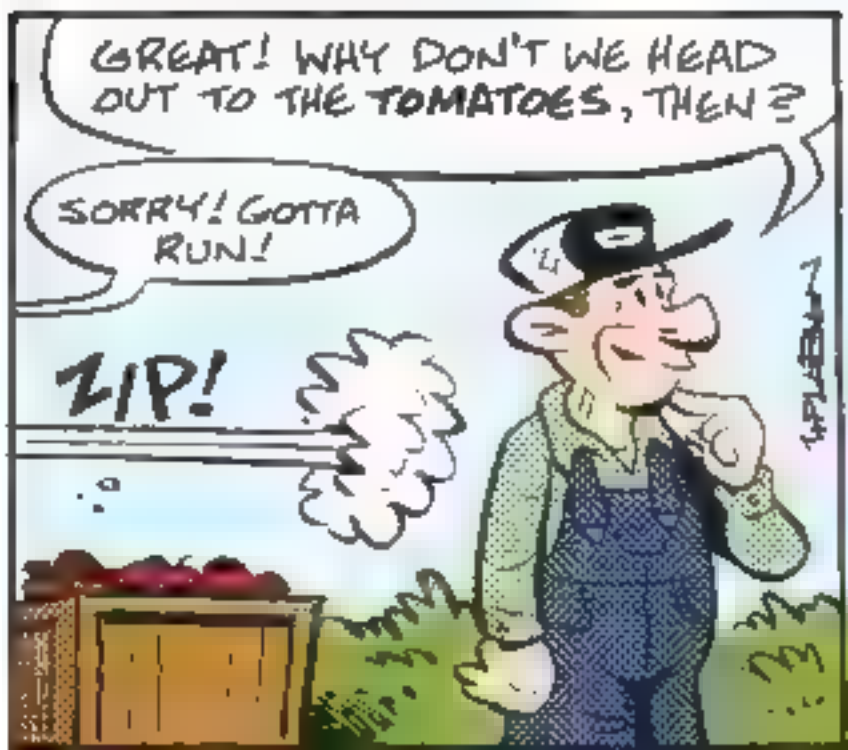
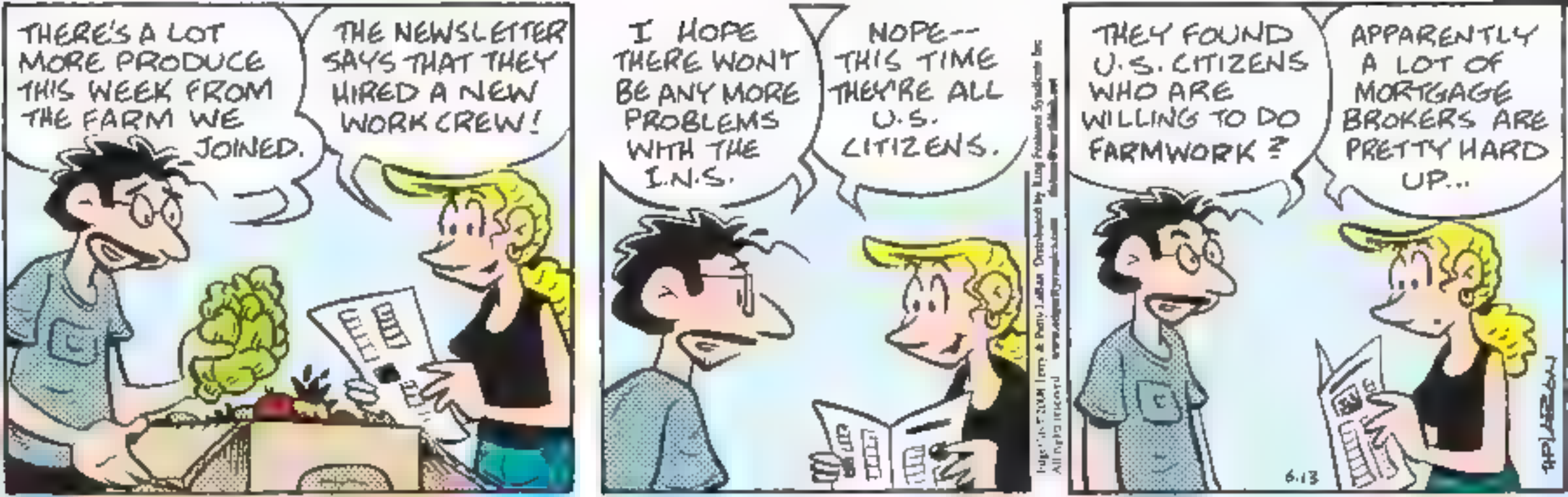
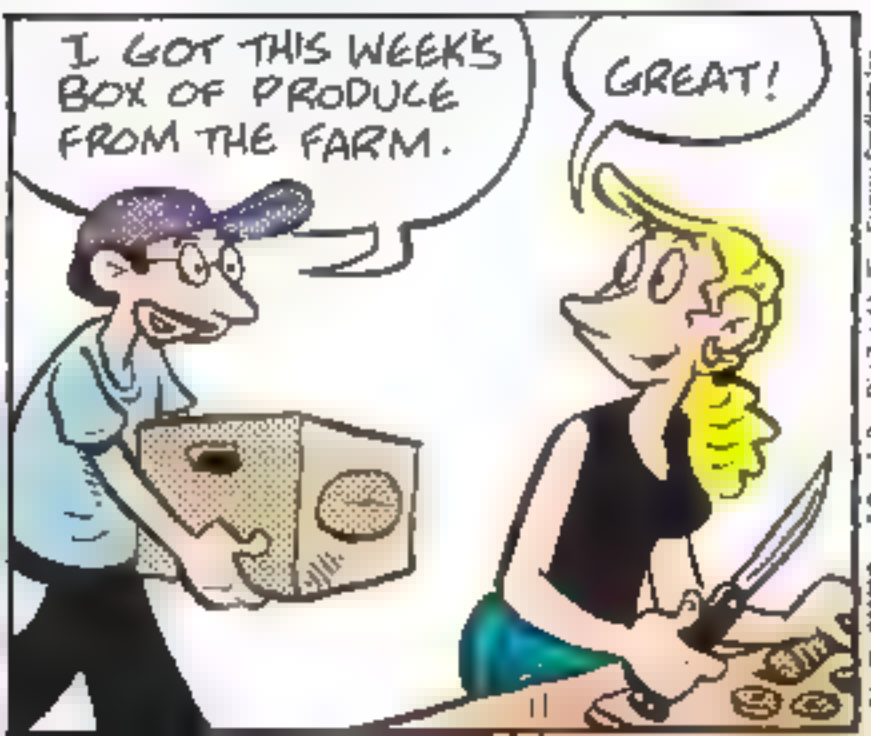
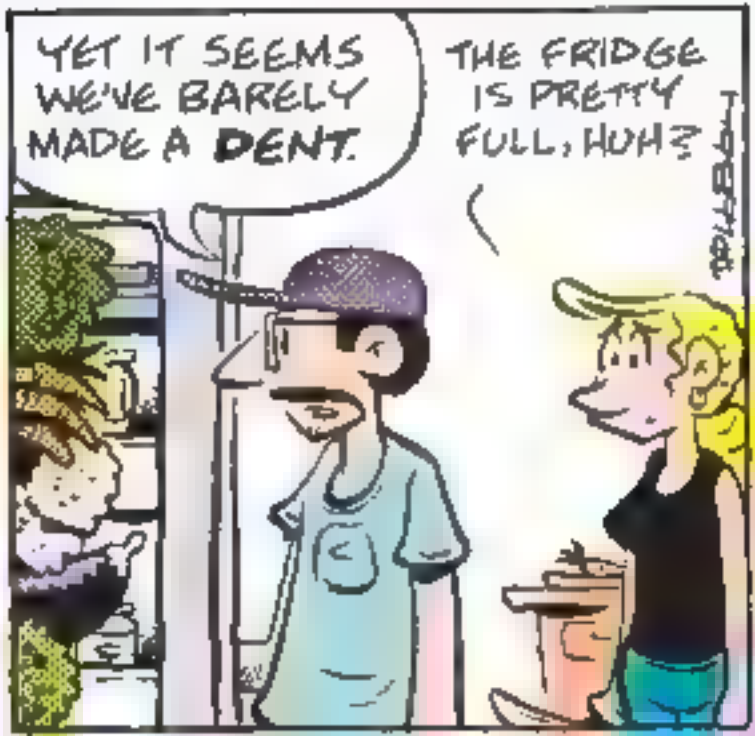


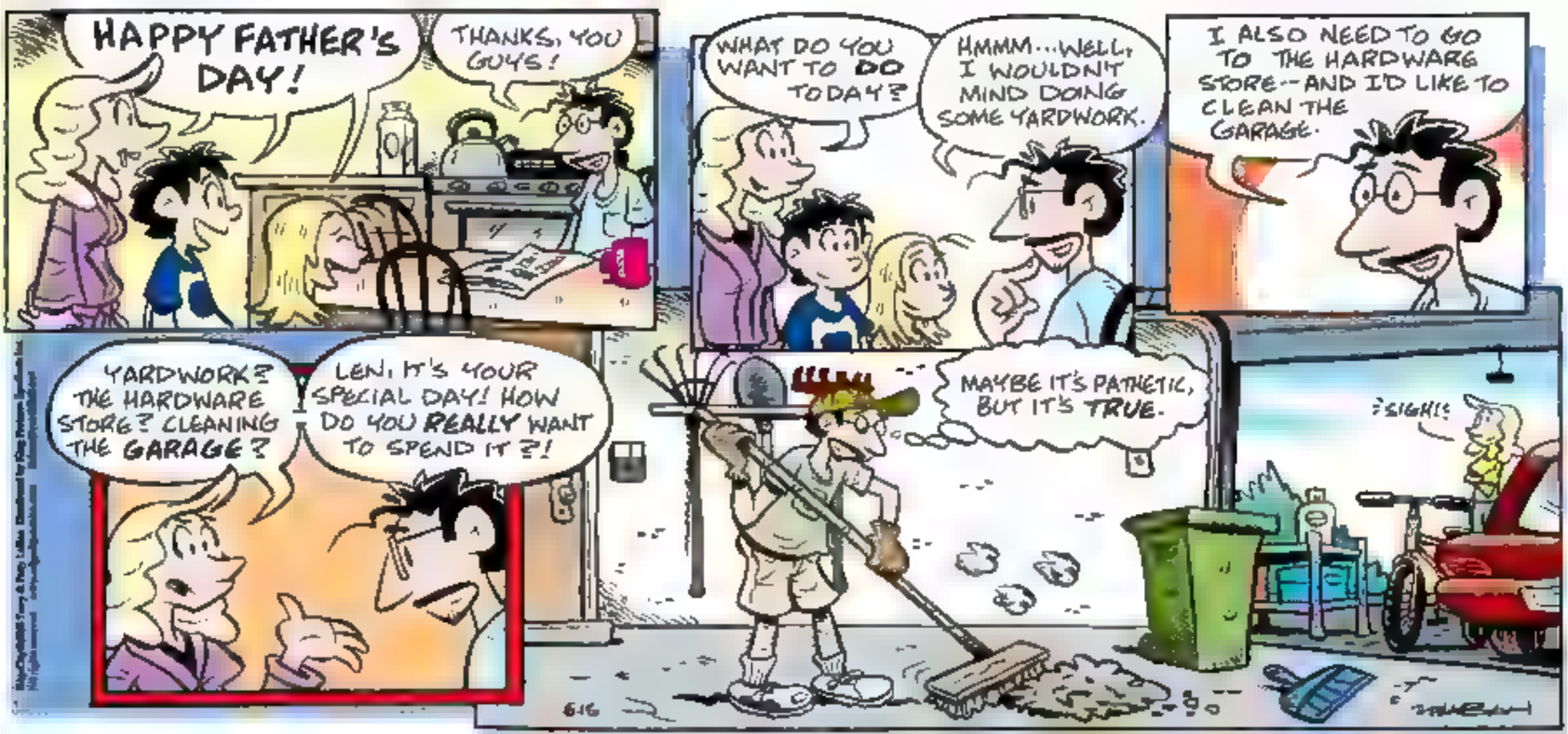
WELL, LEN--VOLUNTEERING ON THE FARM WASN'T SO BAD, WAS IT?
I GUESS IT WAS ALL RIGHT.
IT WAS NICE TO BE OUT IN THE FRESH AIR... GETTING OUR HANDS DIRTY--WORKING TOGETHER ON SOMETHING IMPORTANT...
JUST DON'T ASK ME TO DO IT AGAIN ANYTIME SOON.
DON'T WORRY--IT'LL BE MONTHS BEFORE MY BACK RECOVERS!
6.12

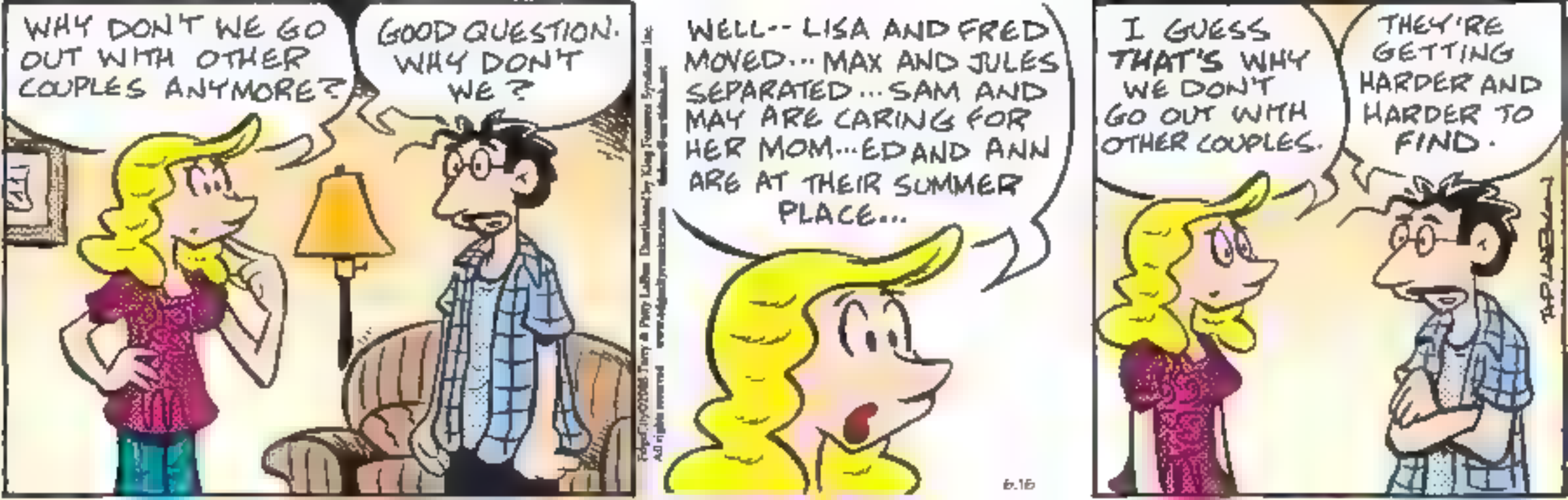

THERE'S A LOT MORE PRODUCE THIS WEEK FROM THE FARM WE JOINED.
THE NEWSLETTER SAYS THAT THEY HIRED A NEW WORK CREW!
I HOPE THERE WON'T BE ANY MORE PROBLEMS WITH THE I.N.S.
NOPE-- THIS TIME THEY'RE ALL U.S. CITIZENS.
THEY FOUND U.S. CITIZENS WHO ARE WILLING TO DO FARMWORK?
APPARENTLY A LOT OF MORTGAGE BROKERS ARE PRETTY HARD UP...
6.13

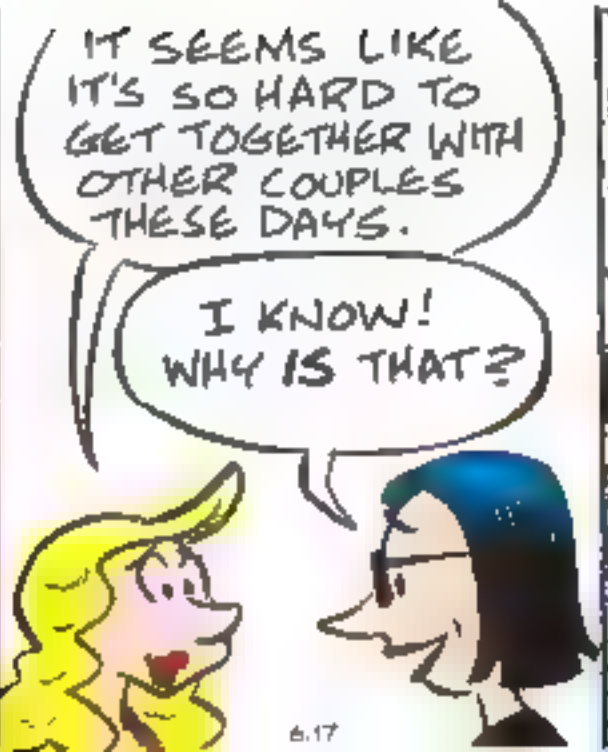

I GOT THIS WEEK'S BOX OF PRODUCE FROM THE FARM.
GREAT!

THE BEST THING ABOUT GETTING A FRESH BOX OF VEGETABLES EACH WEEK IS THAT IT'S MOTIVATED ME TO COOK A LOT MORE.


YET IT SEEMS WE'VE BARELY MADE A DENT.
THE FRIDGE IS PRETTY FULL, HUH?


HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!
THANKS, YOU GUYS!
WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO TODAY?
HMMM...WELL, I WOULDN'T MIND DOING SOME YARDWORK.
I ALSO NEED TO GO TO THE HARDWARE STORE--AND I'D LIKE TO CLEAN THE GARAGE.
YARDWORK? THE HARDWARE STORE? CLEANING THE GARAGE?
LEN, IT'S YOUR SPECIAL DAY! HOW DO YOU REALLY WANT TO SPEND IT?!
MAYBE IT'S PATHETIC, BUT IT'S TRUE.
SIGH!
616


WHY DON'T WE GO OUT WITH OTHER COUPLES ANYMORE?
GOOD QUESTION. WHY DON'T WE?
WELL-- LISA AND FRED MOVED... MAX AND JULES SEPARATED... SAM AND MAY ARE CARING FOR HER MOM... ED AND ANN ARE AT THEIR SUMMER PLACE...
6.16
I GUESS THAT'S WHY WE DON'T GO OUT WITH OTHER COUPLES.
THEY'RE GETTING HARDER AND HARDER TO FIND.



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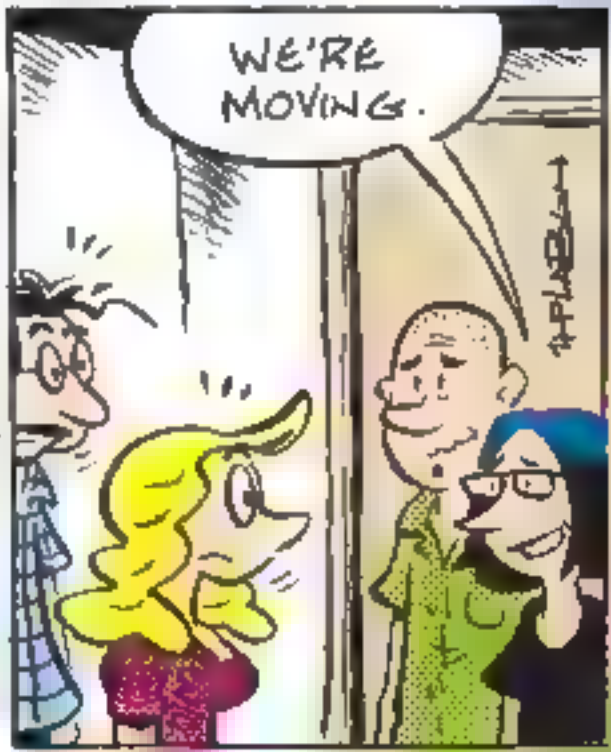
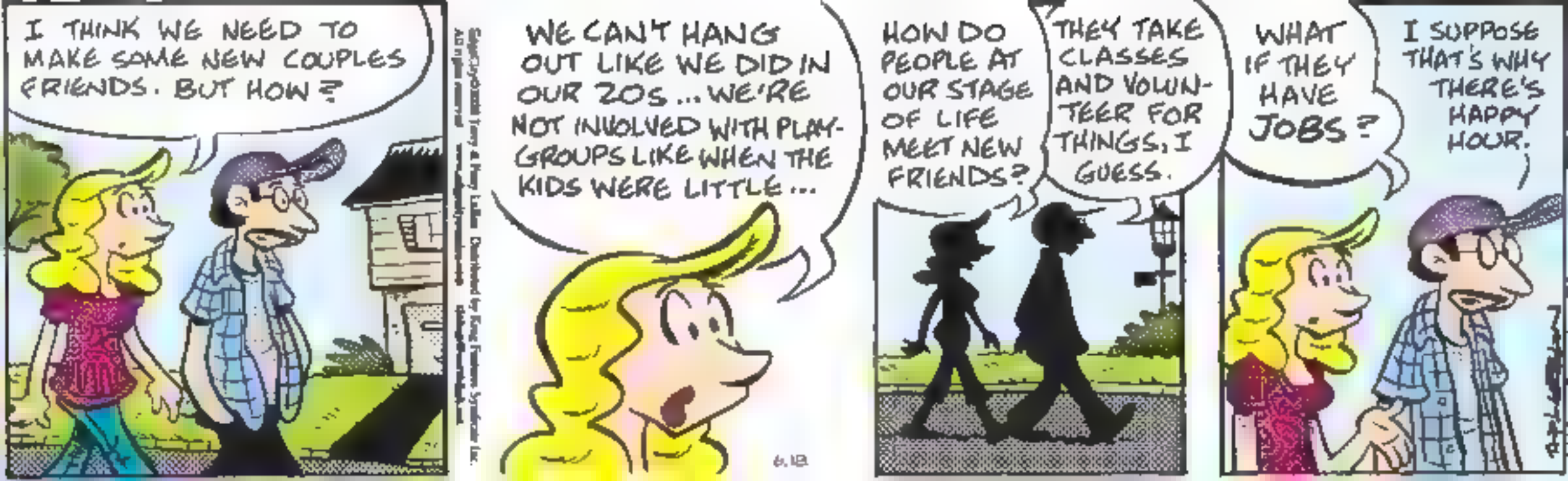
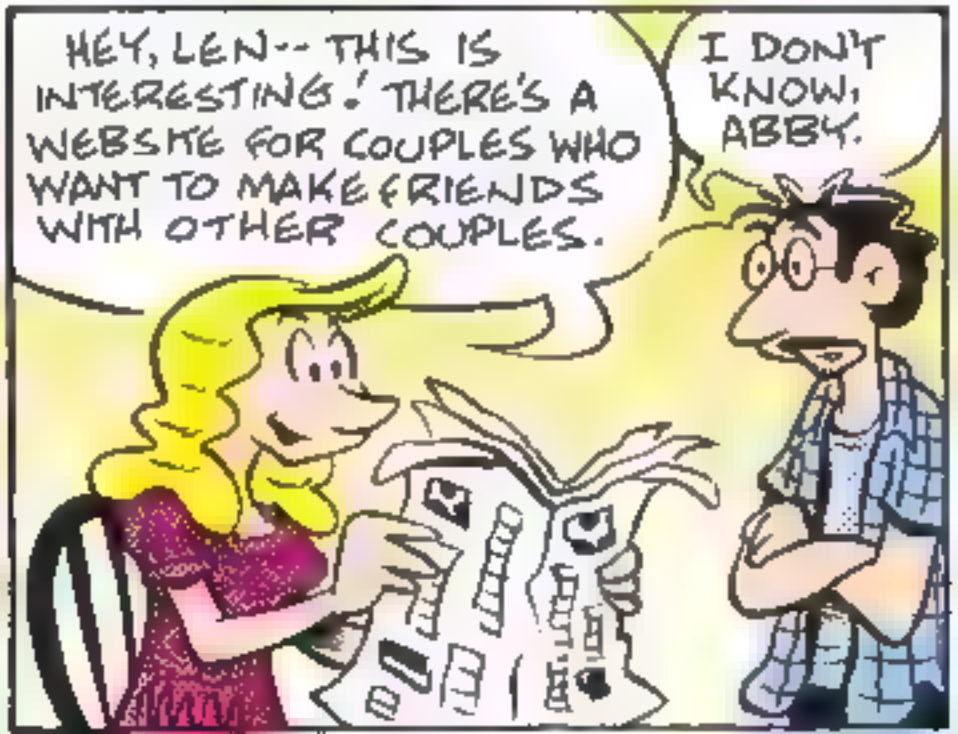



I THINK WE NEED TO MAKE SOME NEW COUPLES FRIENDS. BUT HOW?
WE CAN'T HANG OUT LIKE WE DID IN OUR 20S... WE'RE NOT INVOLVED WITH PLAY-GROUPS LIKE WHEN THE KIDS WERE LITTLE...
HOW DO PEOPLE AT OUR STAGE OF LIFE MEET NEW FRIENDS?
THEY TAKE CLASSES AND VOLUNTEER FOR THINGS, I GUESS.
WHAT IF THEY HAVE JOBS?
I SUPPOSE THAT'S WHY THERE'S HAPPY HOUR.



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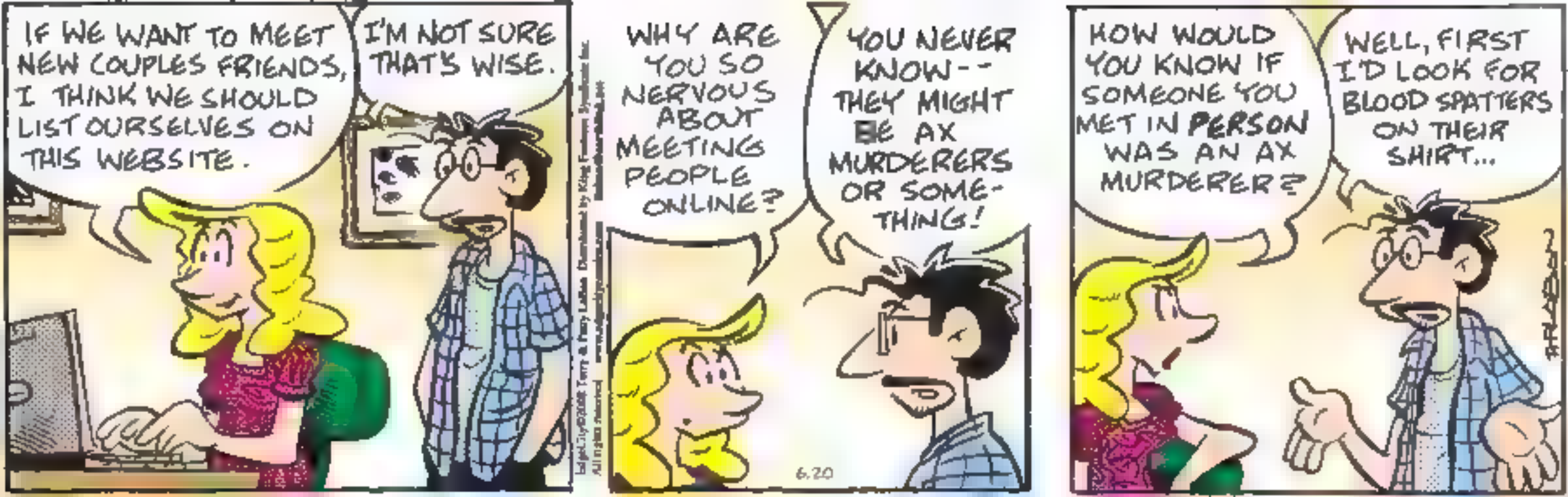
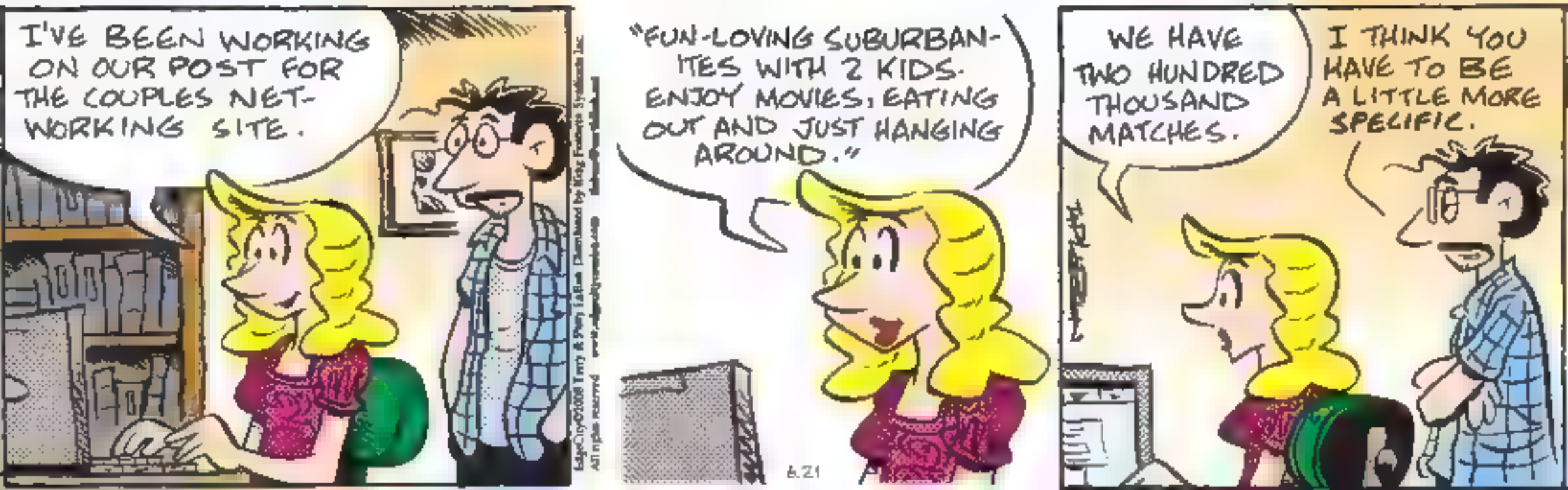
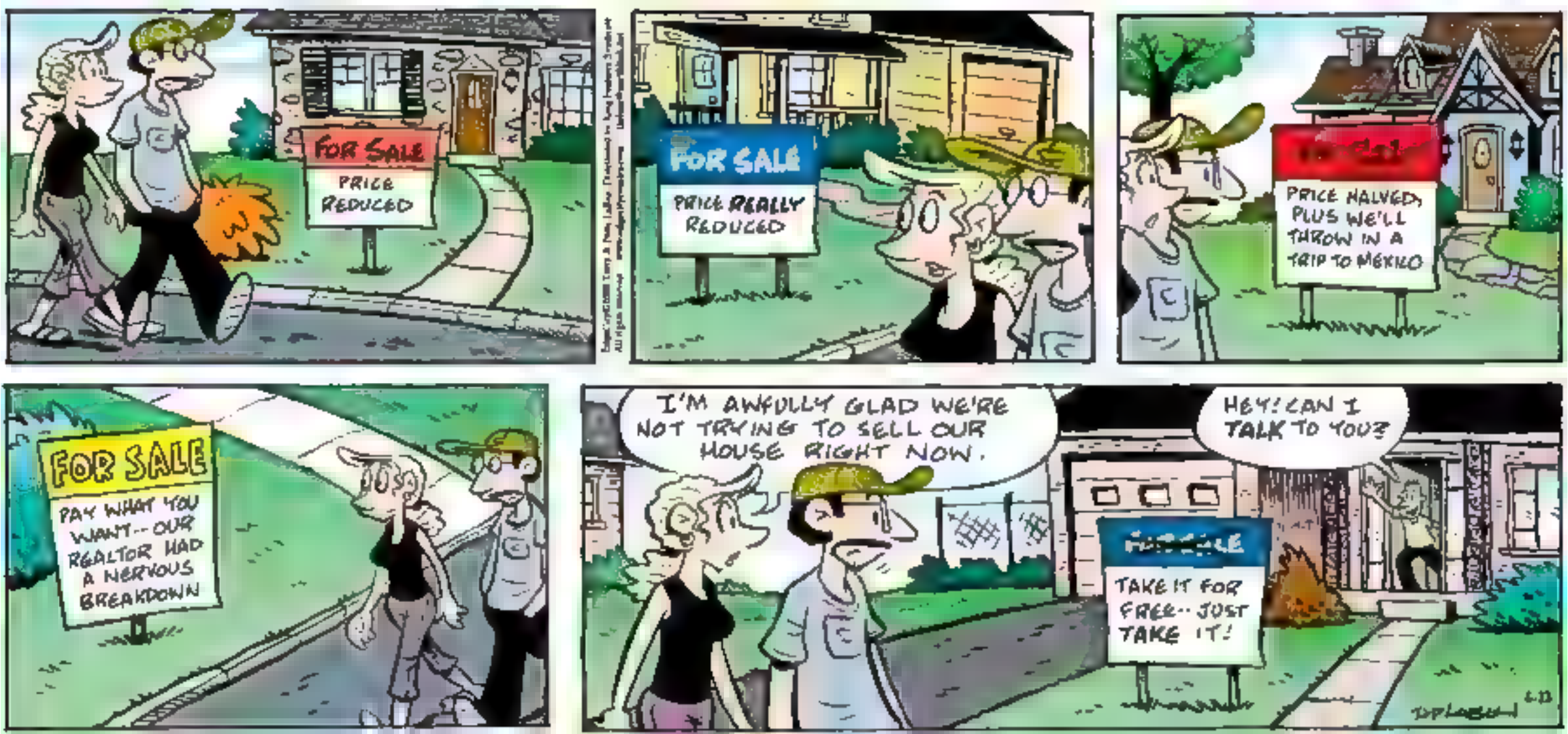
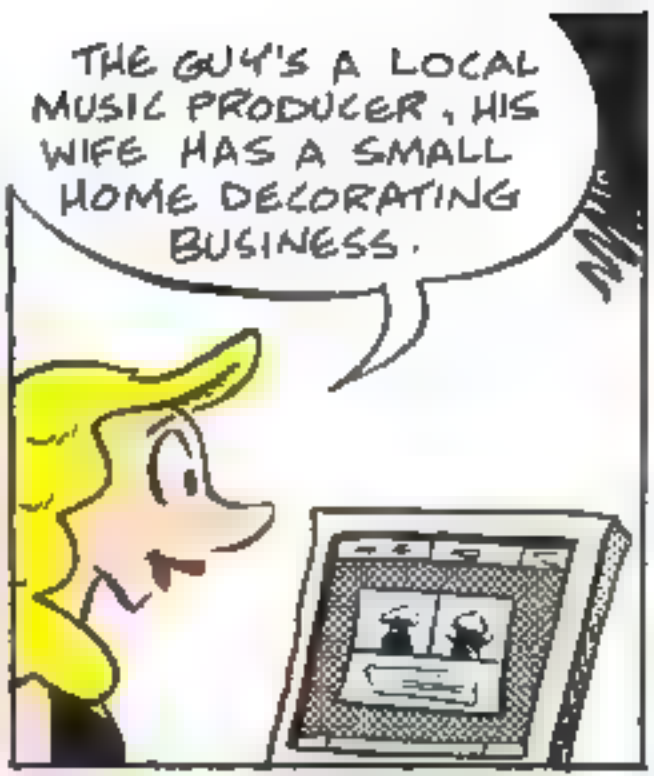
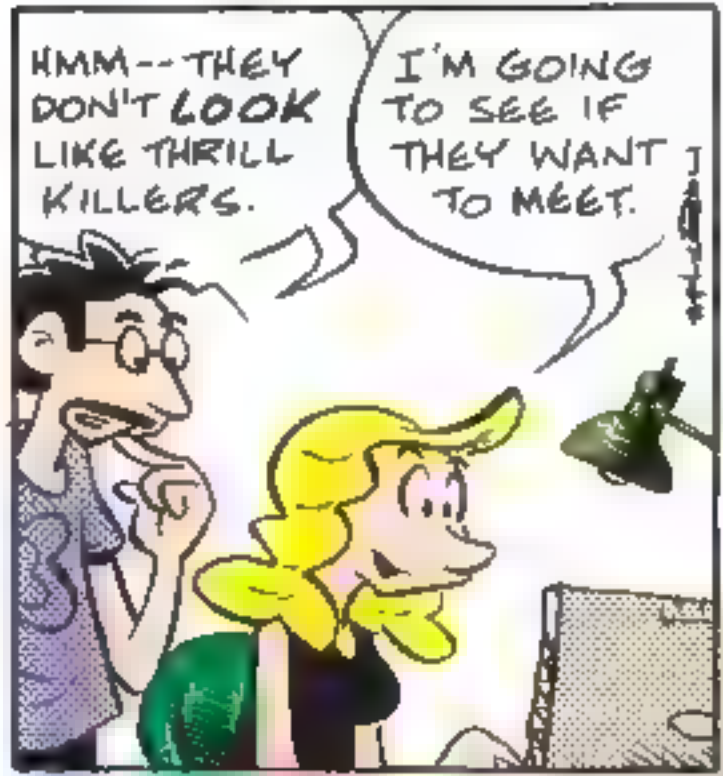

IF WE WANT TO MEET NEW COUPLES FRIENDS, I THINK WE SHOULD LIST OURSELVES ON THIS WEBSITE.
I'M NOT SURE THAT'S WISE.
WHY ARE YOU SO NERVOUS ABOUT MEETING PEOPLE ONLINE?
YOU NEVER KNOW-- THEY MIGHT BE AX MURDERERS OR SOMETHING!
6.20
HOW WOULD YOU KNOW IF SOMEONE YOU MET IN PERSON WAS AN AX MURDERER?
WELL, FIRST I'D LOOK FOR BLOOD SPATTERS ON THEIR SHIRT...


I'VE BEEN WORKING ON OUR POST FOR THE COUPLES NET-WORKING SITE.
"FUN-LOVING SUBURBAN-ITES WITH 2 KIDS. ENJOY MOVIES, EATING OUT AND JUST HANGING AROUND."
WE HAVE TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND MATCHES.
I THINK YOU HAVE TO BE A LITTLE MORE SPECIFIC.


FOR SALE
PRICE REDUCED
FOR SALE
PRICE REALLY REDUCED
PRICE HALVED, PLUS WE'LL THROW IN A TRIP TO MEXICO
FOR SALE
PAY WHAT YOU WANT-- OUR REALTOR HAD A NERVOUS BREAKDOWN
I'M AWFULLY GLAD WE'RE NOT TRYING TO SELL OUR HOUSE RIGHT NOW.
HEY! CAN I TALK TO YOU?
TAKE IT FOR FREE-- JUST TAKE IT!





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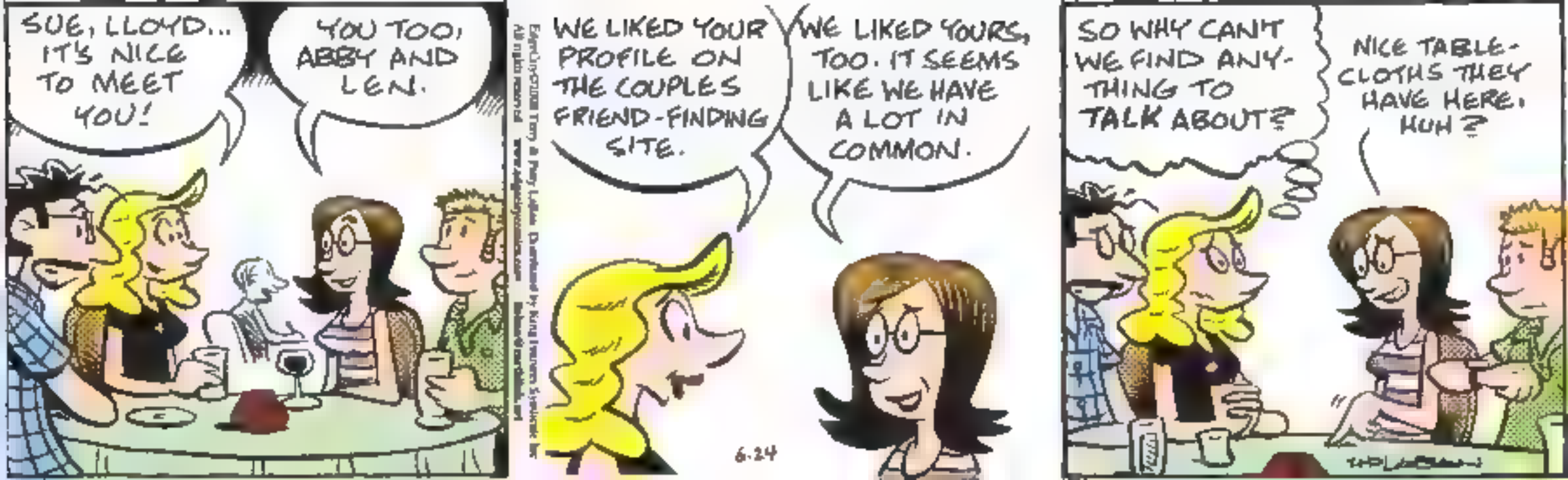
SUE, LLOYD... IT'S NICE TO MEET YOU!
YOU TOO, ABBY AND LEN.
WE LIKED YOUR PROFILE ON THE COUPLES FRIEND-FINDING SITE.
WE LIKED YOURS, TOO. IT SEEMS LIKE WE HAVE A LOT IN COMMON.
6-24
SO WHY CAN'T WE FIND ANY-THING TO TALK ABOUT?
NICE TABLE-CLOTHS THEY HAVE HERE, HUH?

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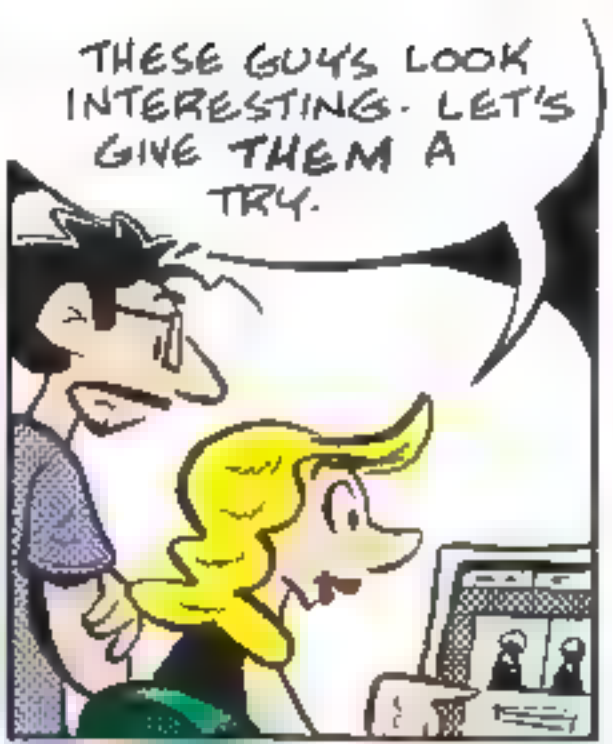
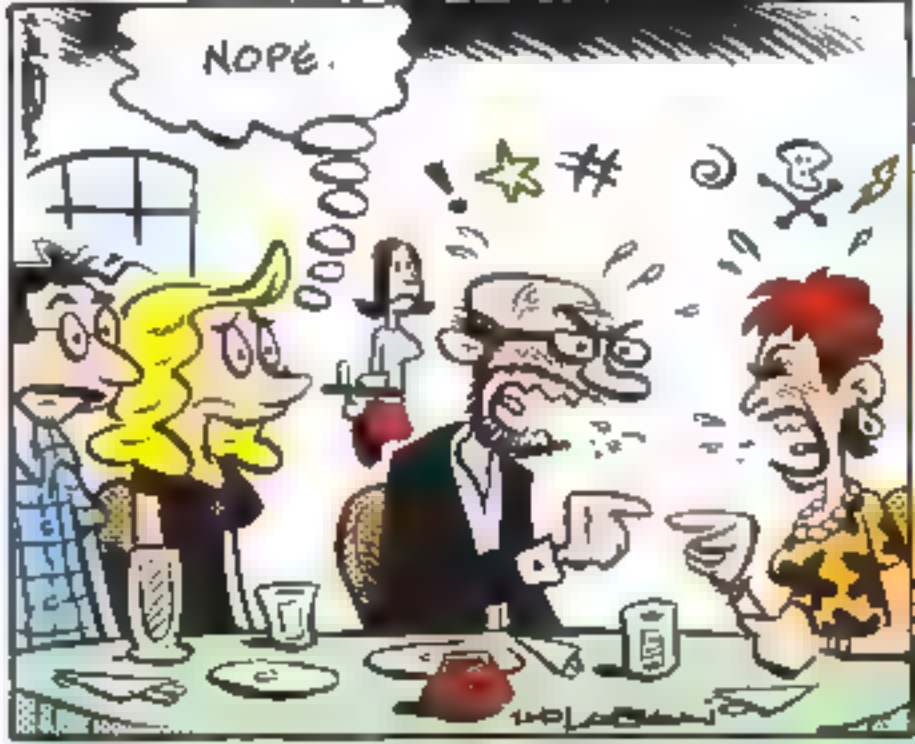
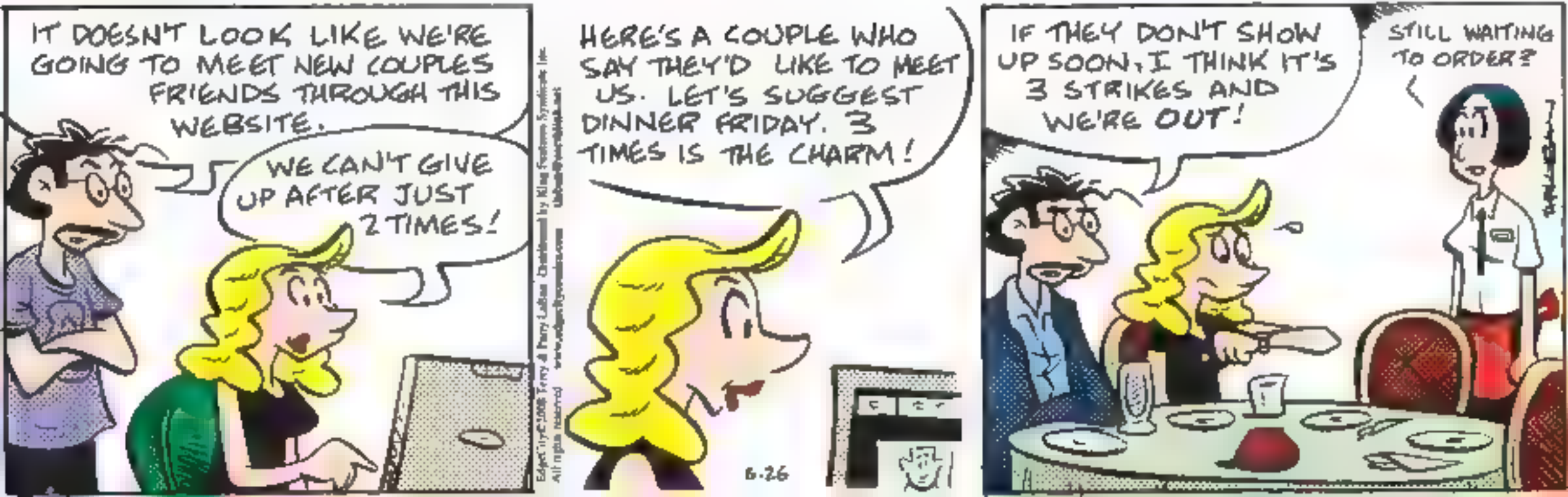
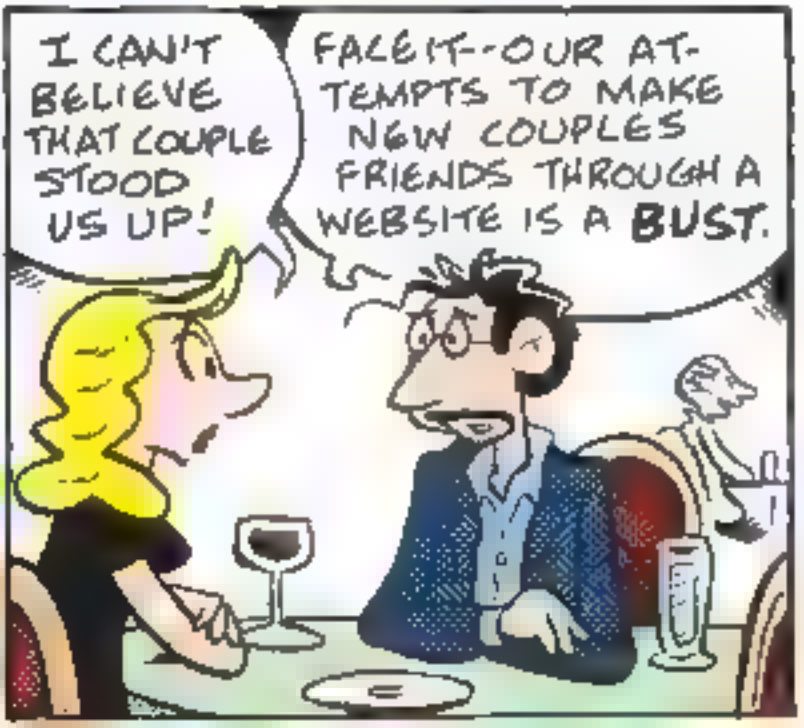





IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE WE'RE GOING TO MEET NEW COUPLES FRIENDS THROUGH THIS WEBSITE.
WE CAN'T GIVE UP AFTER JUST 2 TIMES!
HERE'S A COUPLE WHO SAY THEY'D LIKE TO MEET US. LET'S SUGGEST DINNER FRIDAY. 3 TIMES IS THE CHARM!
6-26
IF THEY DON'T SHOW UP SOON, I THINK IT'S 3 STRIKES AND WE'RE OUT!
STILL WAITING TO ORDER?



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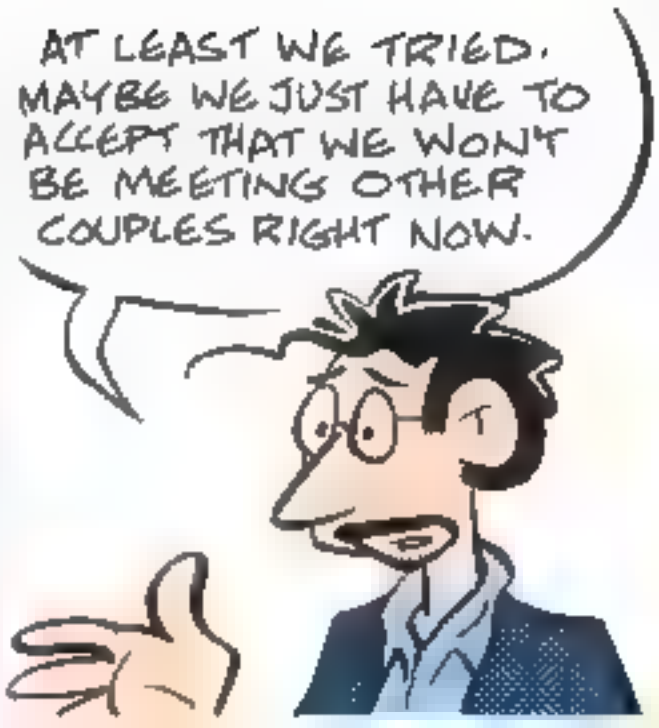
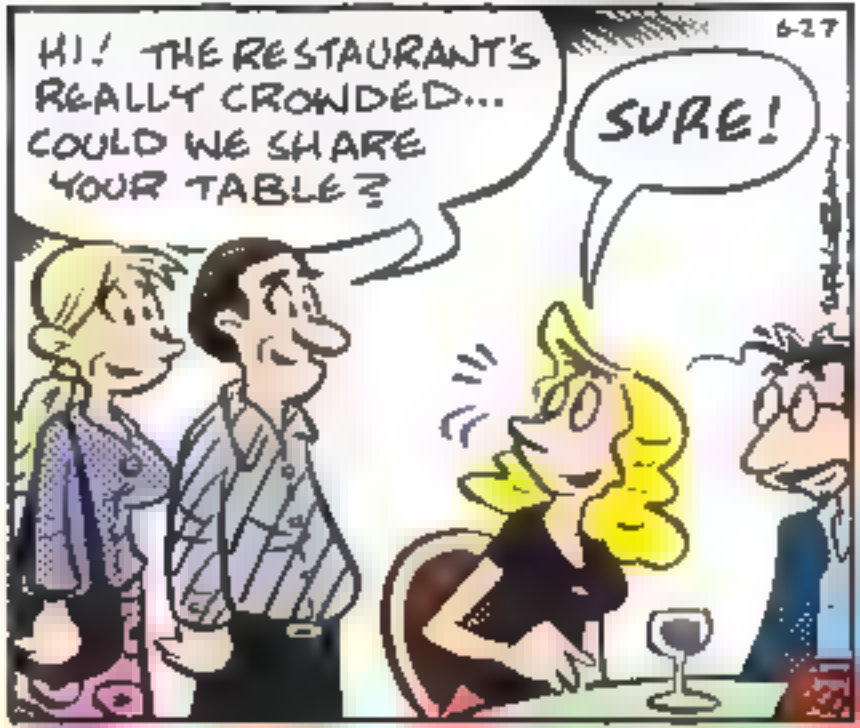
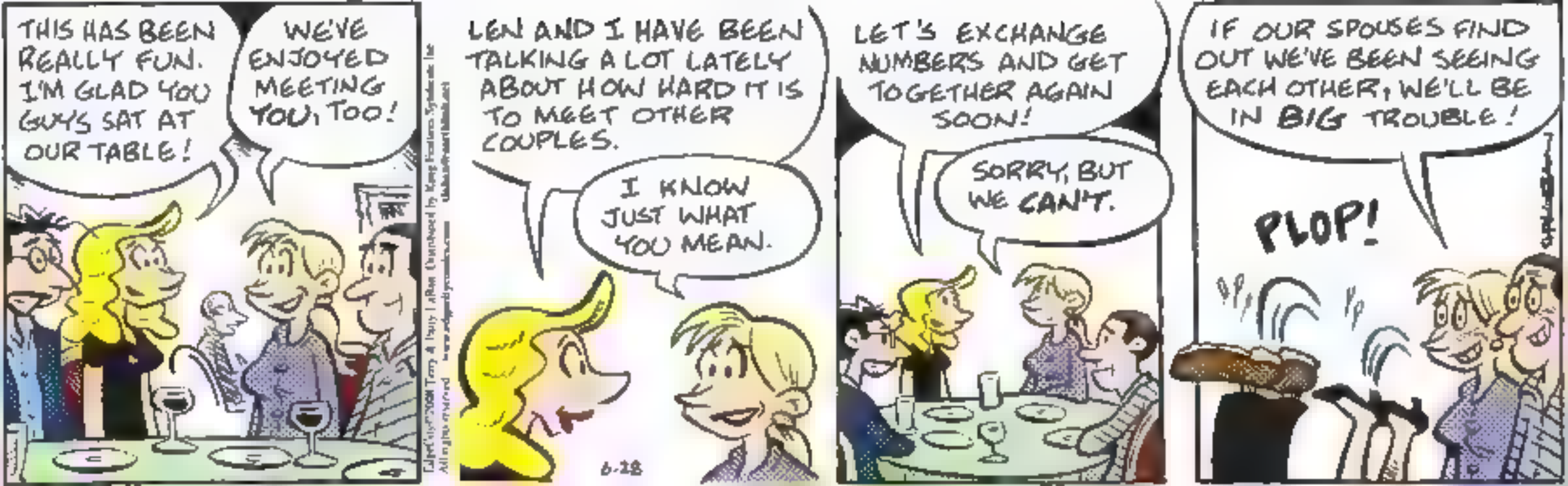
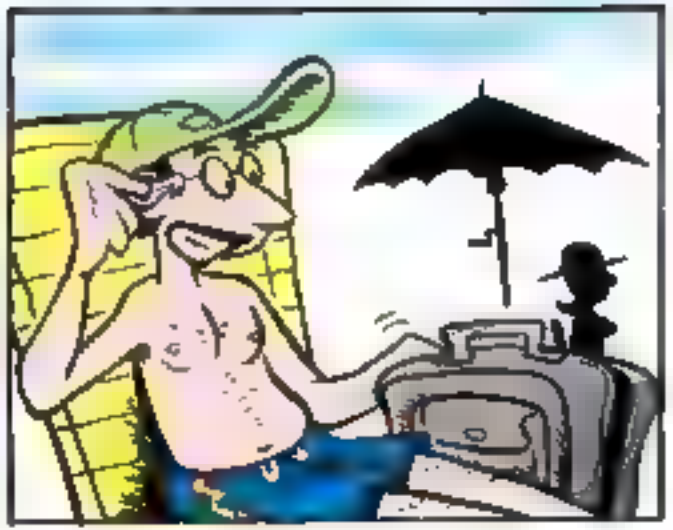
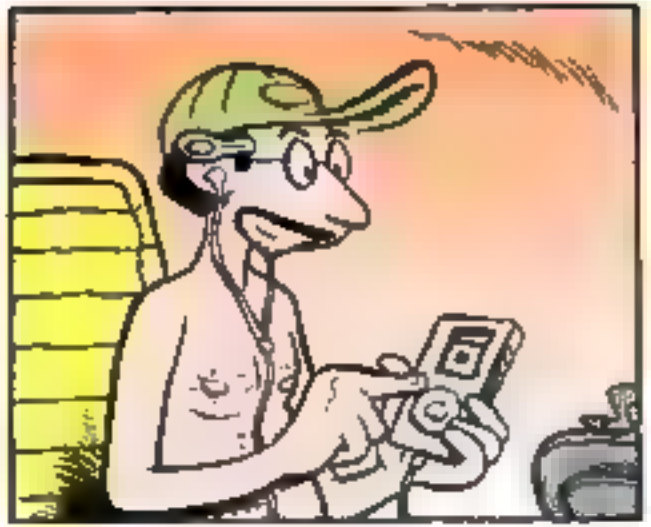


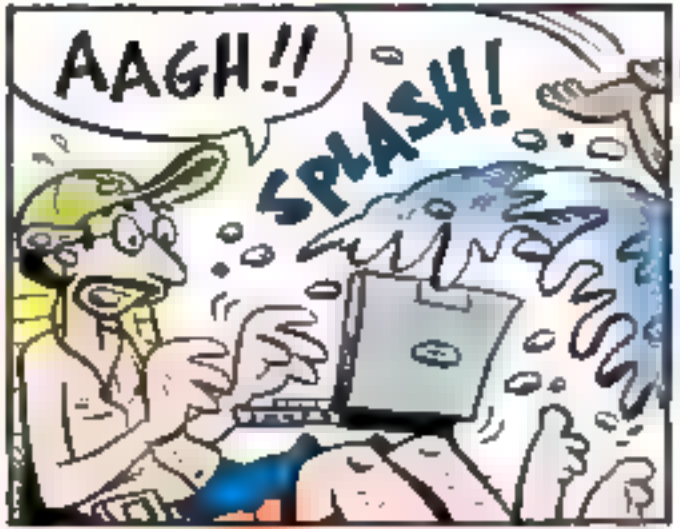


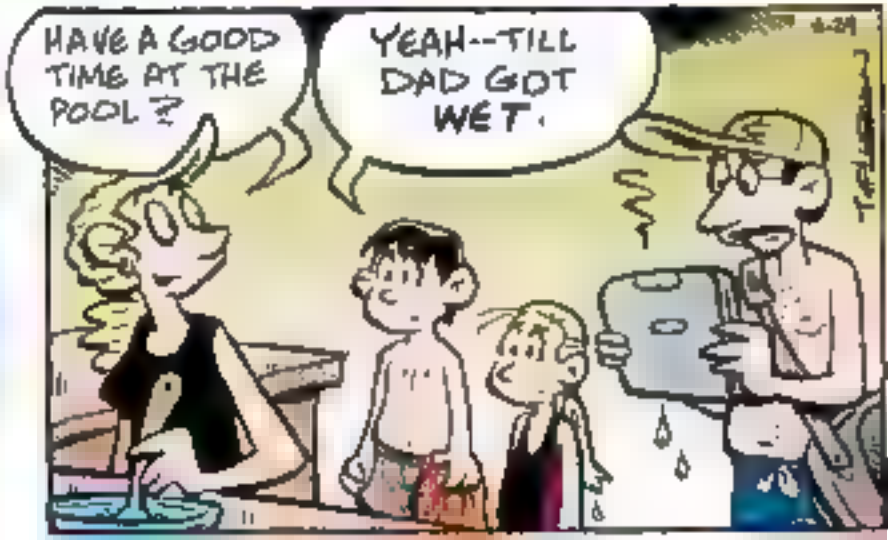

THIS HAS BEEN REALLY FUN. I'M GLAD YOU GUYS SAT AT OUR TABLE!
WE'VE ENJOYED MEETING YOU, TOO!
LEN AND I HAVE BEEN TALKING A LOT LATELY ABOUT HOW HARD IT IS TO MEET OTHER COUPLES.
I KNOW JUST WHAT YOU MEAN.
6-28
LET'S EXCHANGE NUMBERS AND GET TOGETHER AGAIN SOON!
SORRY, BUT WE CAN'T.
IF OUR SPOUSES FIND OUT WE'VE BEEN SEEING EACH OTHER, WE'LL BE IN BIG TROUBLE!
PLOP!

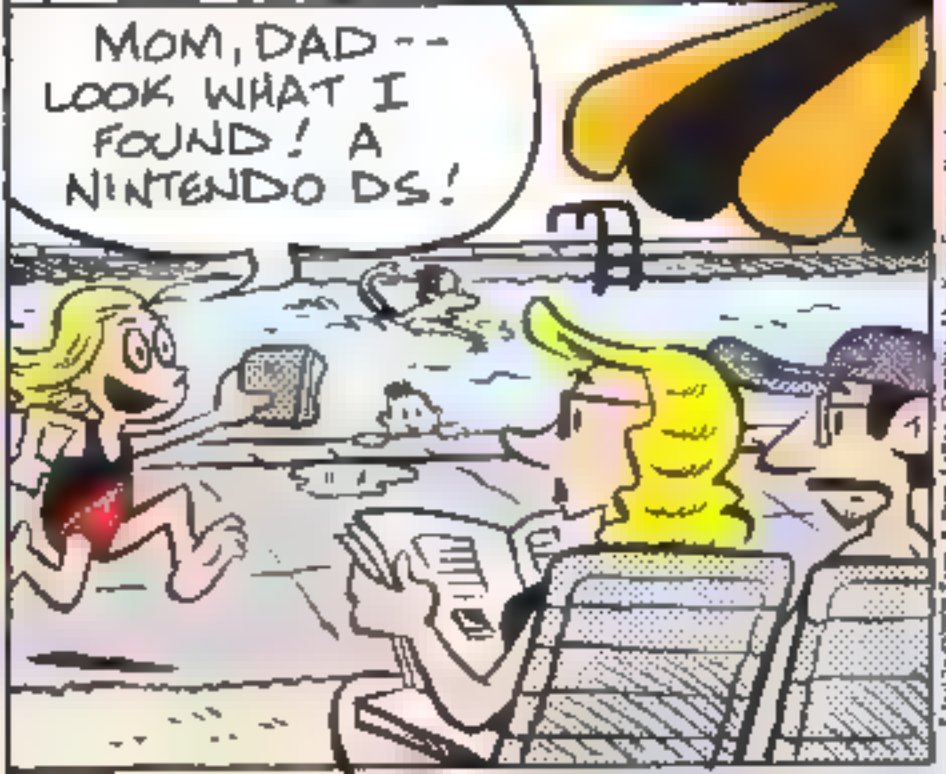


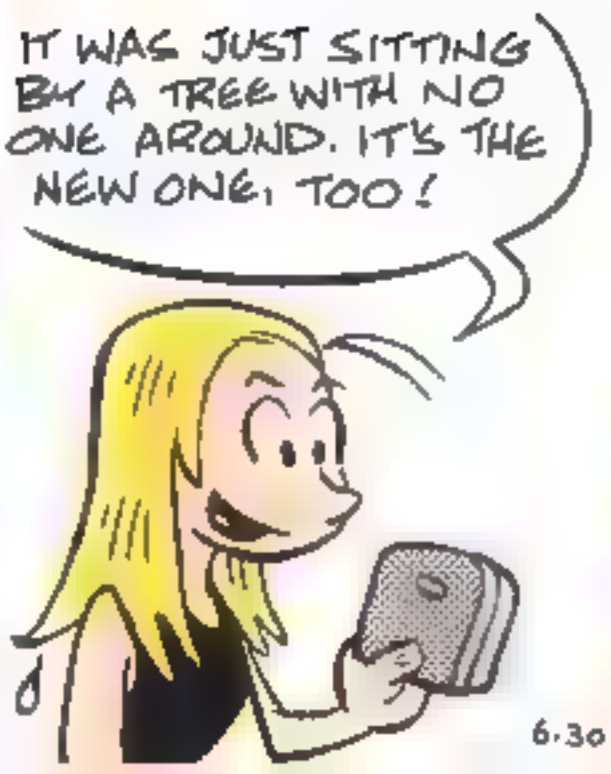


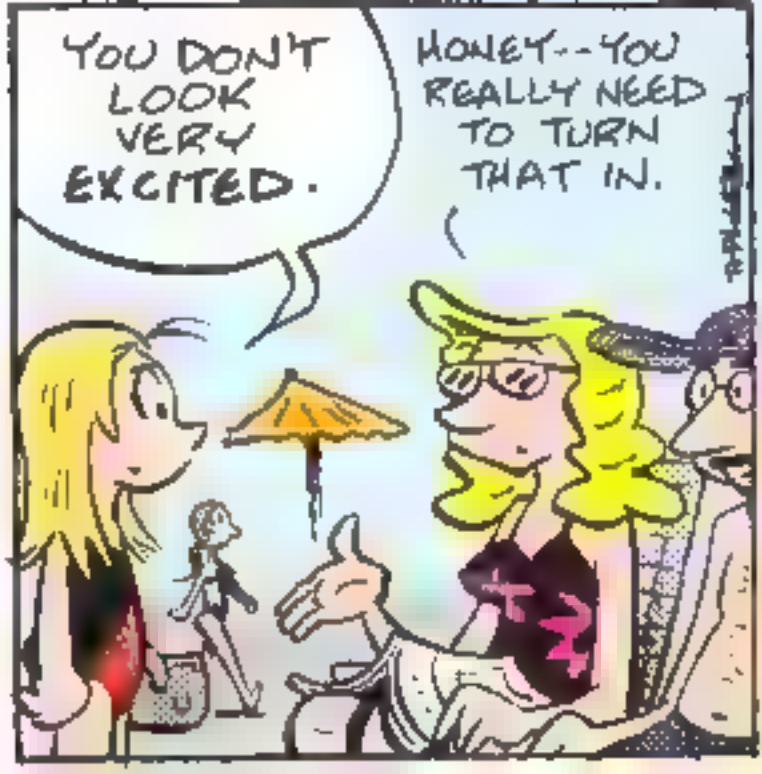
TAPA TAP!

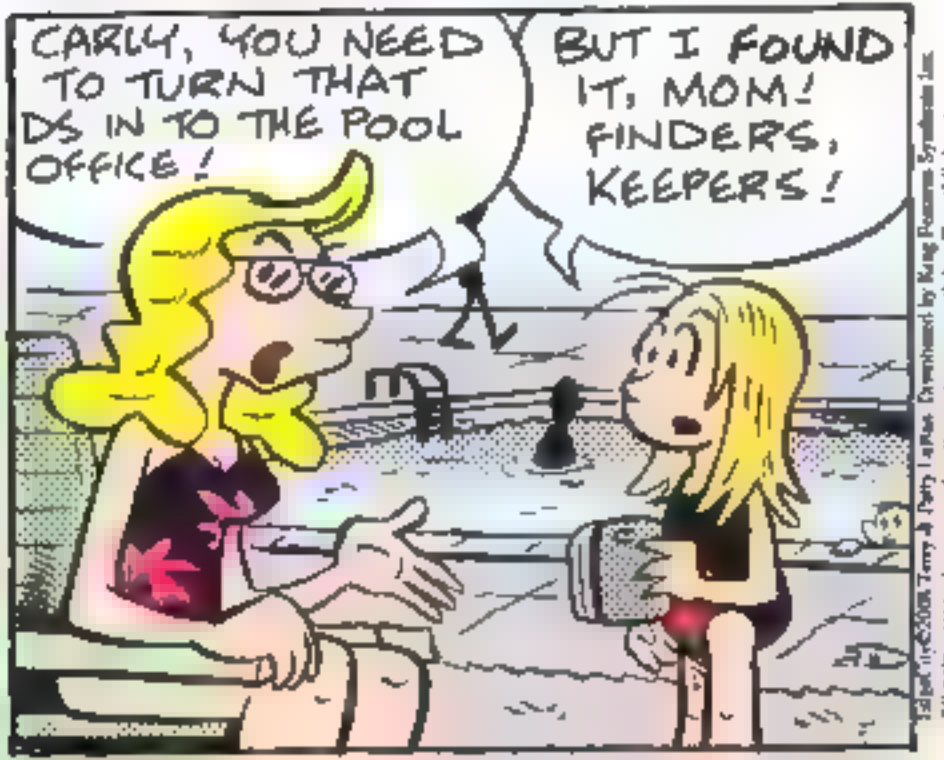

AAGH!!
SPLASH!


HAVE A GOOD TIME AT THE POOL?
YEAH--TILL DAD GOT WET.

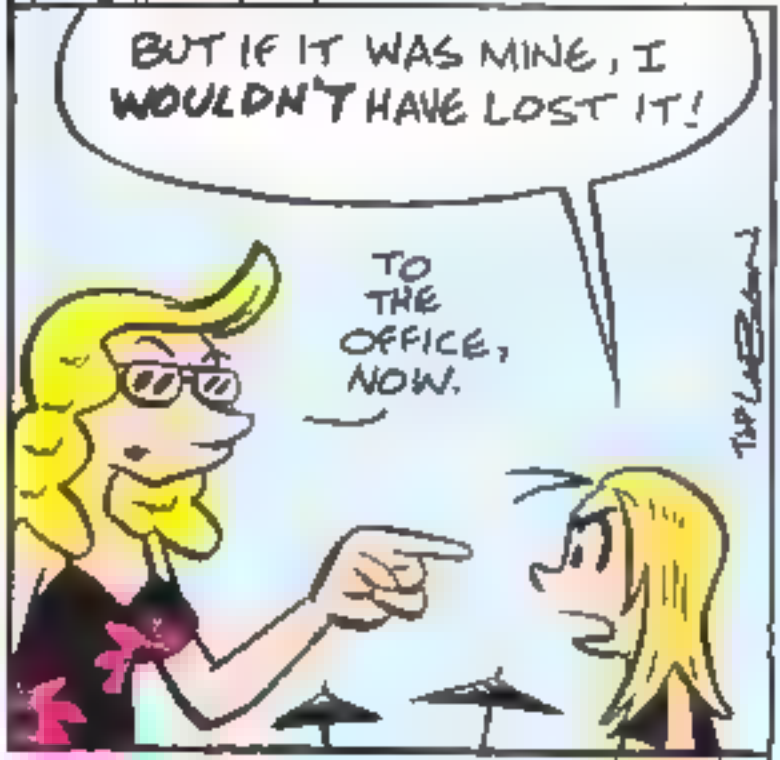

MOM, DAD -- LOOK WHAT I FOUND! A NINTENDO DS!

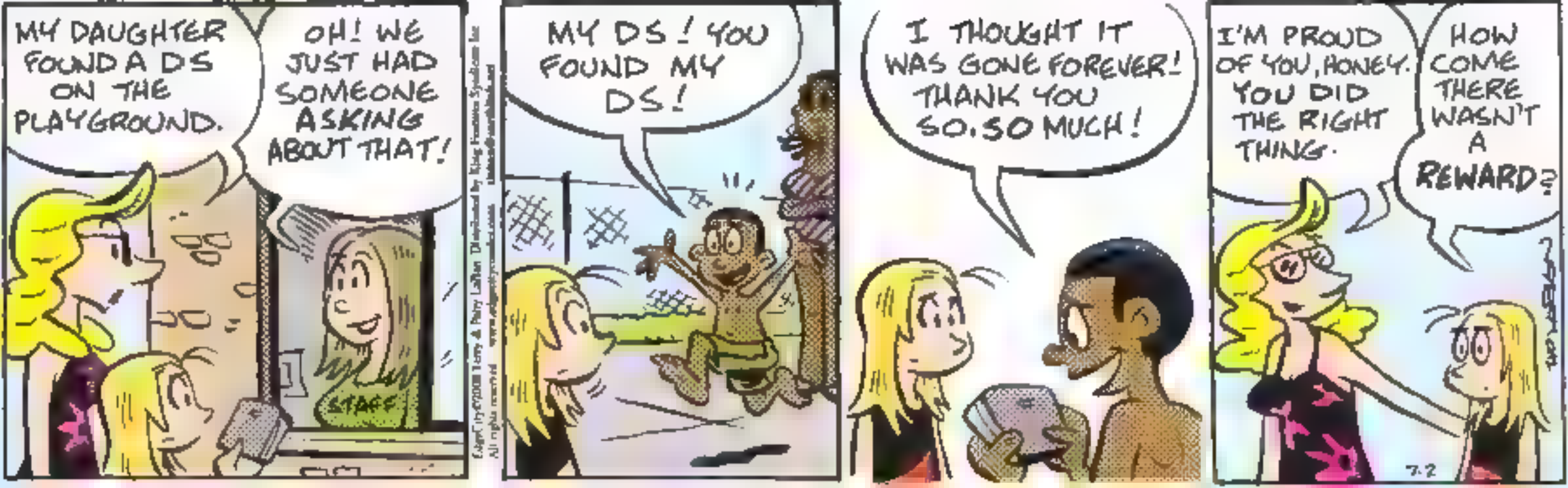

IT WAS JUST SITTING BY A TREE WITH NO ONE AROUND. IT'S THE NEW ONE, TOO!
6.30

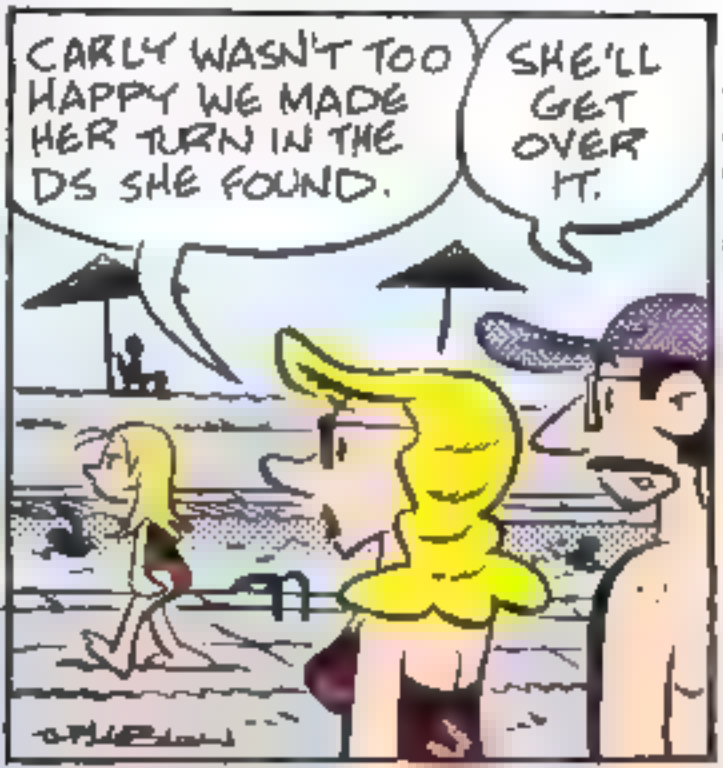

YOU DON'T LOOK VERY EXCITED.
HONEY--YOU REALLY NEED TO TURN THAT IN.


CARLY, YOU NEED TO TURN THAT DS IN TO THE POOL OFFICE!
BUT I FOUND IT, MOM! FINDERS, KEEPERS!

THAT'S NOT RIGHT. IF YOU'D LOST THAT DS, WOULDN'T YOU WANT THE PERSON WHO FOUND IT TO TURN IT IN?
I GUESS...
7-1


BUT IF IT WAS MINE, I WOULDN'T HAVE LOST IT!
TO THE OFFICE, NOW.


MY DAUGHTER FOUND A DS ON THE PLAYGROUND.
OH! WE JUST HAD SOMEONE ASKING ABOUT THAT!
STAFF
MY DS! YOU FOUND MY DS!
I THOUGHT IT WAS GONE FOREVER! THANK YOU SO, SO MUCH!
I'M PROUD OF YOU, HONEY. YOU DID THE RIGHT THING.
HOW COME THERE WASN'T A REWARD?
7-2



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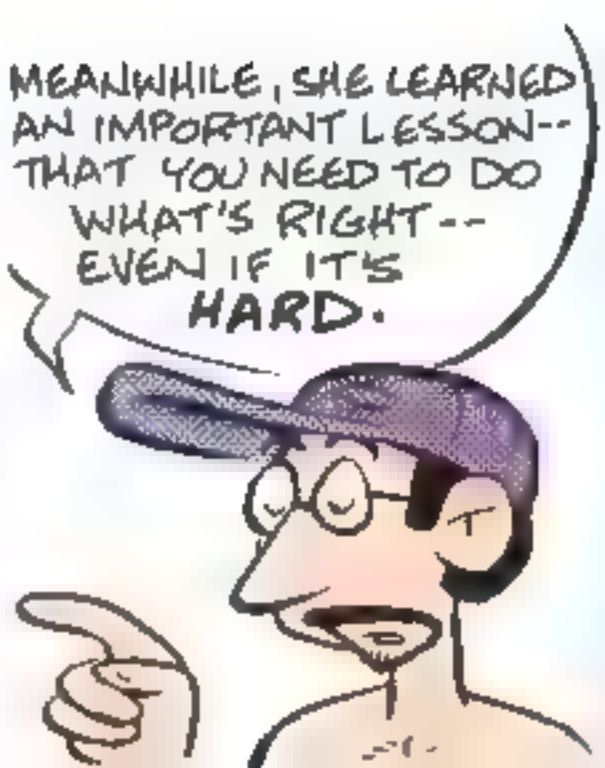
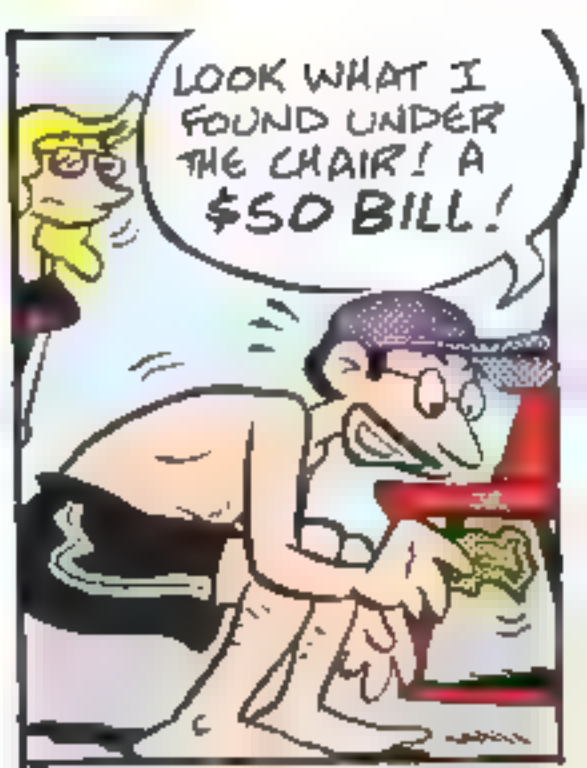
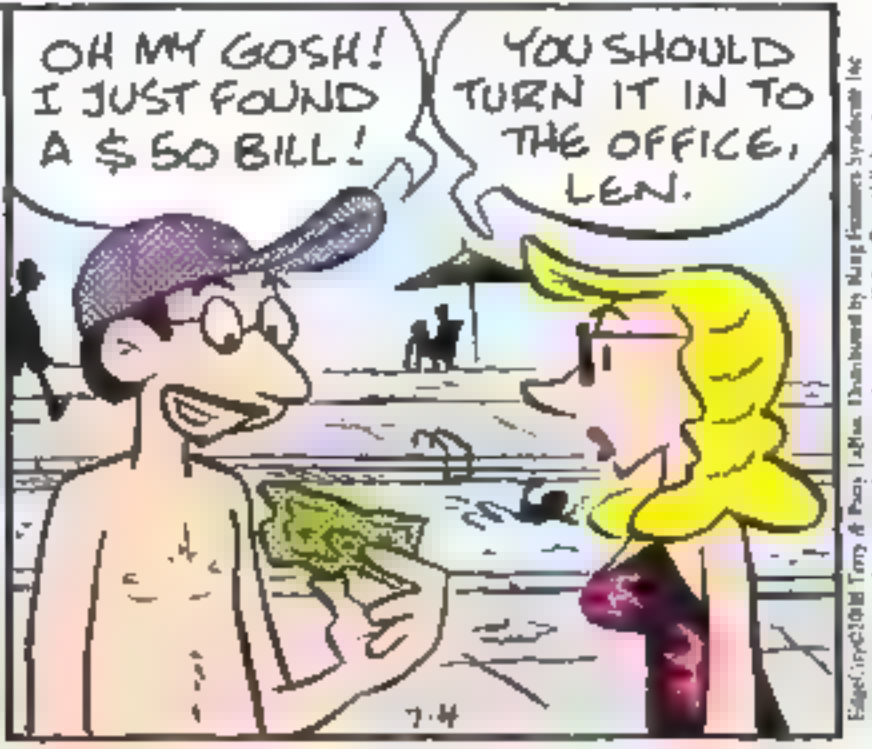
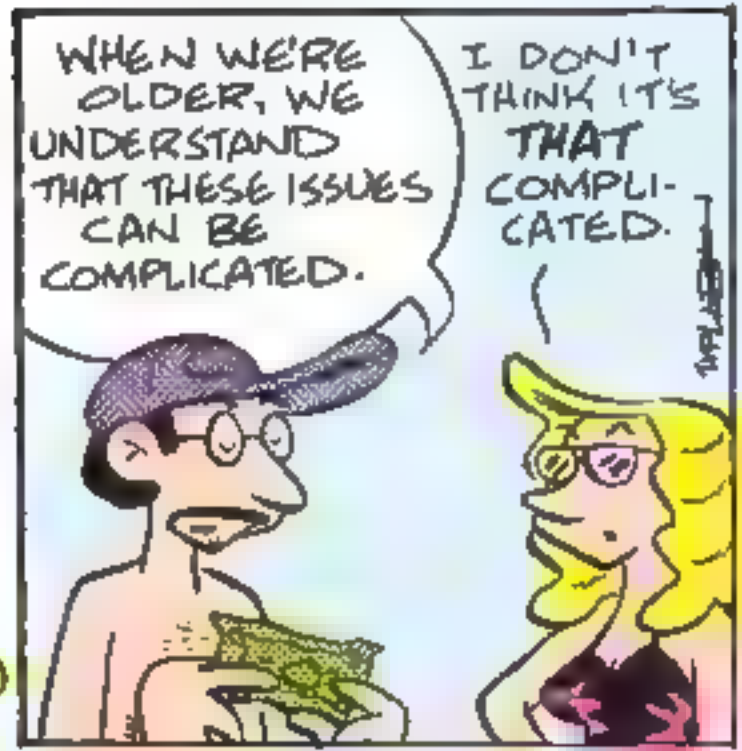
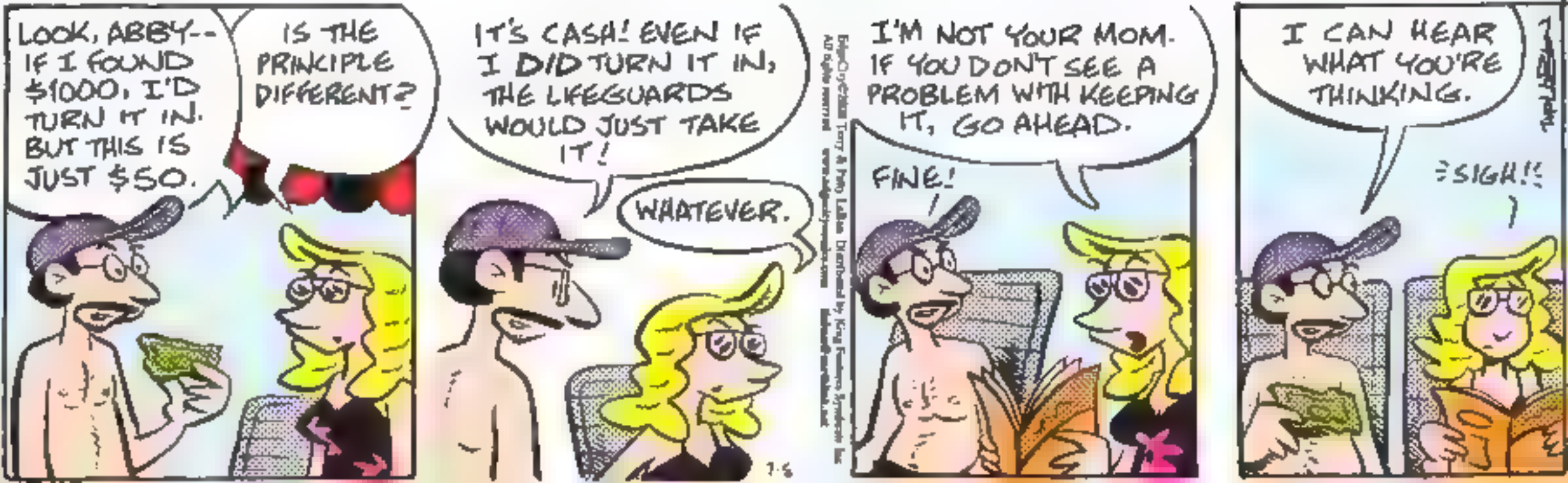





OH MY GOSH! I JUST FOUND A $50 BILL!
YOU SHOULD TURN IT IN TO THE OFFICE, LEN.
7-4

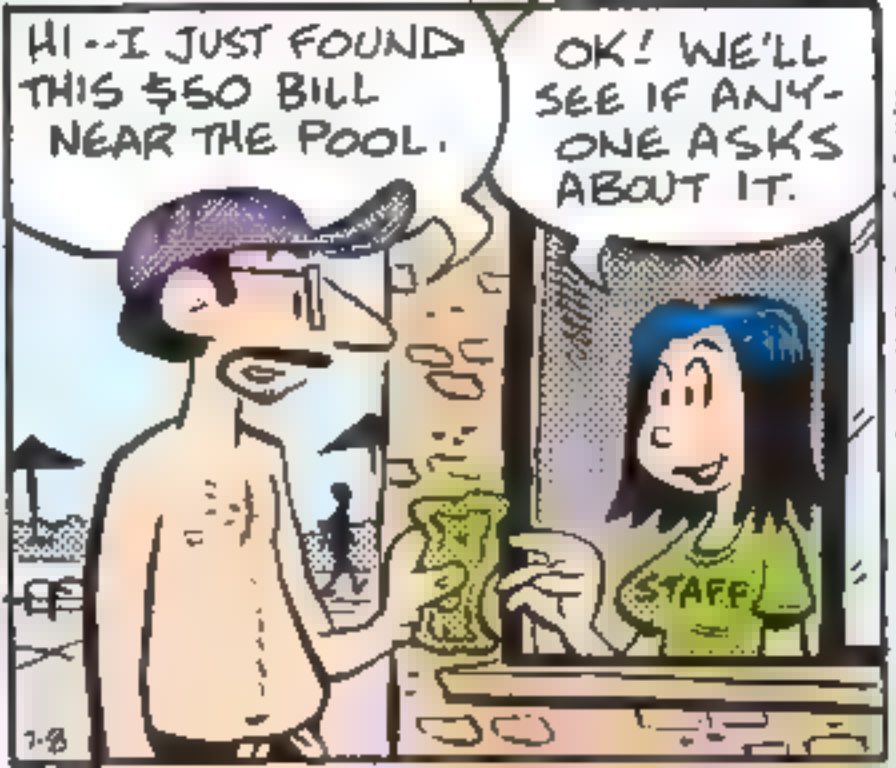
THIS IS CASH, ABBY!
WE JUST MADE CARLY TURN IN A DS SHE FOUND! WHAT WOULD SHE THINK IF SHE KNEW YOU WERE KEEPING THAT MONEY?


WHEN WE'RE OLDER, WE UNDERSTAND THAT THESE ISSUES CAN BE COMPLICATED.
I DON'T THINK IT'S THAT COMPLI-CATED.


LOOK, ABBY-- IF I FOUND $1000, I'D TURN IT IN. BUT THIS IS JUST $50.
IS THE PRINCIPLE DIFFERENT?
IT'S CASH! EVEN IF I DID TURN IT IN, THE LIFEGUARDS WOULD JUST TAKE IT!
WHATEVER.
I'M NOT YOUR MOM. IF YOU DON'T SEE A PROBLEM WITH KEEPING IT, GO AHEAD.
FINE!
I CAN HEAR WHAT YOU'RE THINKING.
SIGH!!

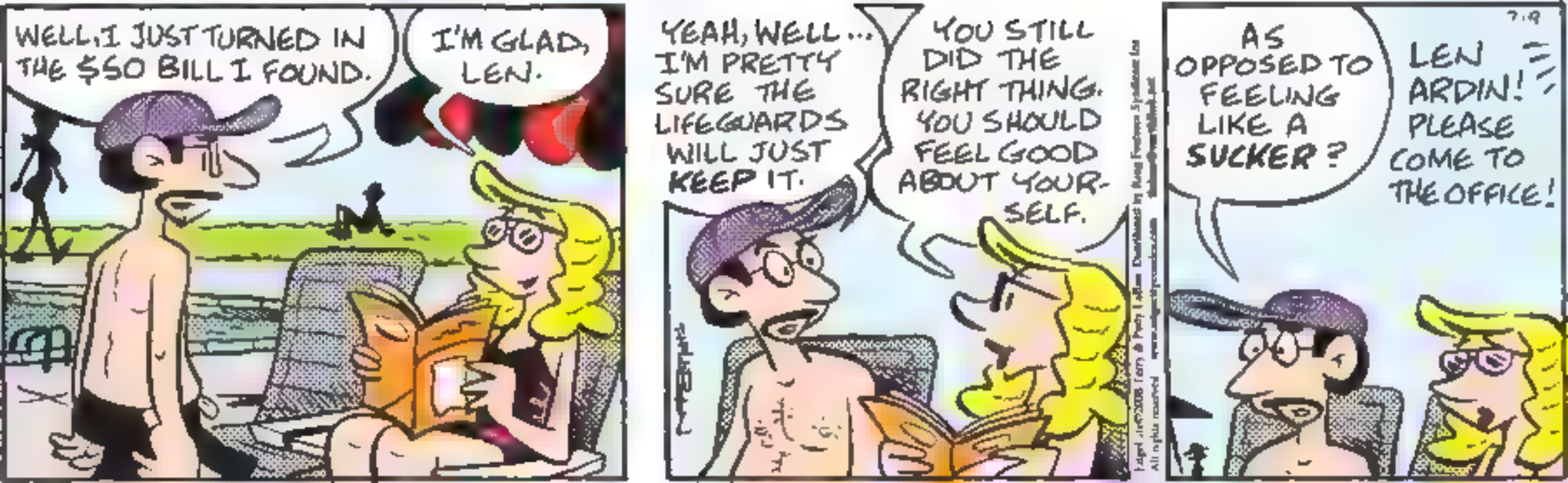
$53!
$66!
$72!
$83?!
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME WE'VE MANAGED TO BLOW OUR WHOLE VACATION BUDGET BEFORE WE EVEN ARRIVED AT OUR DESTINATION!

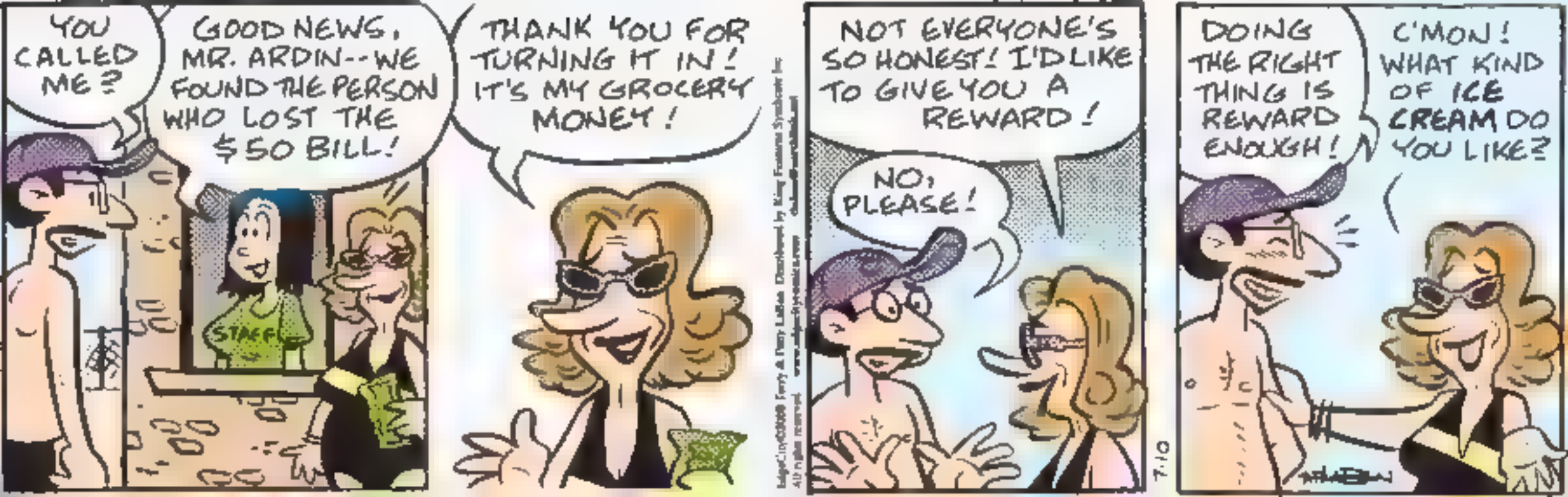
LOOK, ABBY--I KNOW YOU DON'T THINK I SHOULD KEEP THIS $50 BILL I FOUND!
IT ISN'T THAT MUCH, AND THE LIFEGUARDS WILL PROBABLY KEEP IT. BUT YOU STILL THINK I SHOULD TURN IT IN!
WELL, FINE--I'LL TAKE IT TO THE OFFICE!
ARE YOU HAPPY NOW?
SORRY--ARE YOU TALKING TO ME?
AW, NEVER MIND...

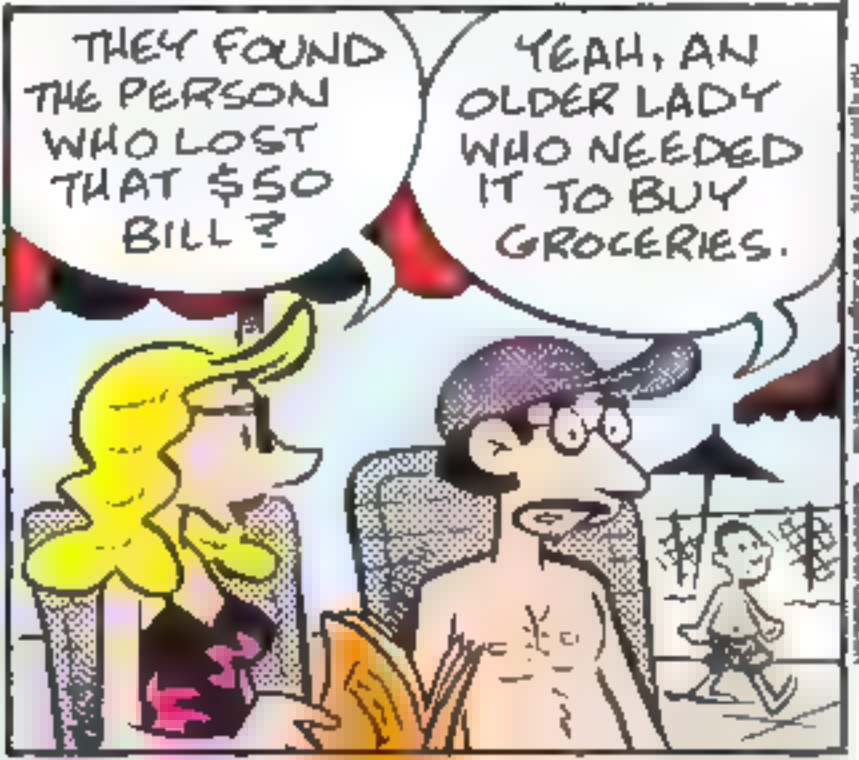

HI--I JUST FOUND THIS $50 BILL NEAR THE POOL.
OK! WE'LL SEE IF ANY-ONE ASKS ABOUT IT.
STAFF

LET ME GIVE YOU MY NAME AND NUMBER. I WANT TO KNOW WHAT HAPPENS TO IT, UNDER-STAND?

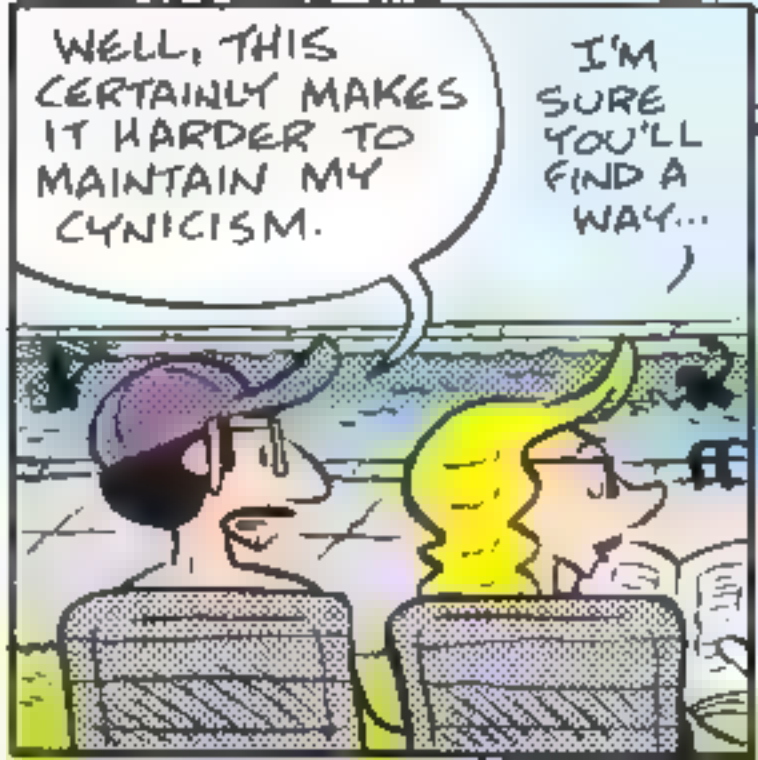
DON'T WORRY--WE WON'T JUST TELL YOU SOMEONE CLAIMED IT AND KEEP IT FOR OUR-SELVES.
DID I SAY THAT?
STAFF

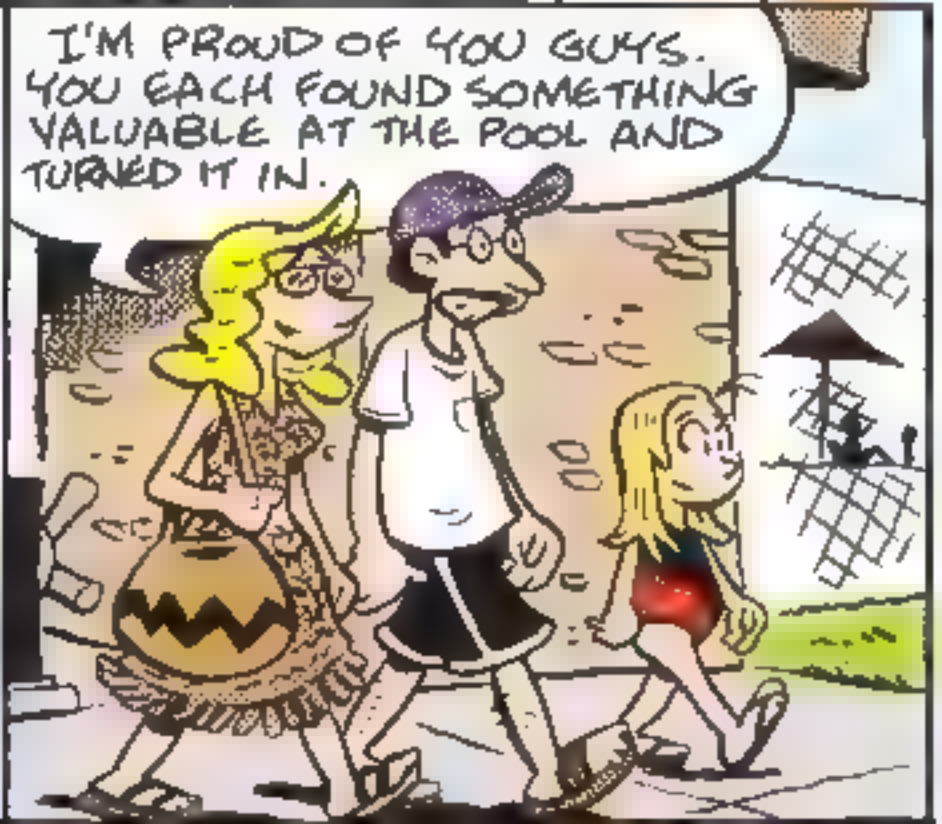

WELL, I JUST TURNED IN THE $50 BILL I FOUND.
I'M GLAD, LEN.
YEAH, WELL... I'M PRETTY SURE THE LIFEGUARDS WILL JUST KEEP IT.
YOU STILL DID THE RIGHT THING. YOU SHOULD FEEL GOOD ABOUT YOURSELF.
AS OPPOSED TO FEELING LIKE A SUCKER?
LEN ARDIN! PLEASE COME TO THE OFFICE!


YOU CALLED ME?
GOOD NEWS, MR. ARDIN--WE FOUND THE PERSON WHO LOST THE $50 BILL!
STAFF
THANK YOU FOR TURNING IT IN! IT'S MY GROCERY MONEY!
NOT EVERYONE'S SO HONEST! I'D LIKE TO GIVE YOU A REWARD!
NO, PLEASE!
DOING THE RIGHT THING IS REWARD ENOUGH!
C'MON! WHAT KIND OF ICE CREAM DO YOU LIKE?
7-10


THEY FOUND THE PERSON WHO LOST THAT $50 BILL?
YEAH, AN OLDER LADY WHO NEEDED IT TO BUY GROCERIES.

AND YOU WERE SURE THE LIFEGUARDS WOULD KEEP IT. LOOKS LIKE PEOPLE ARE MORE HONEST THAN YOU THINK.


WELL, THIS CERTAINLY MAKES IT HARDER TO MAINTAIN MY CYNICISM.
I'M SURE YOU'LL FIND A WAY...



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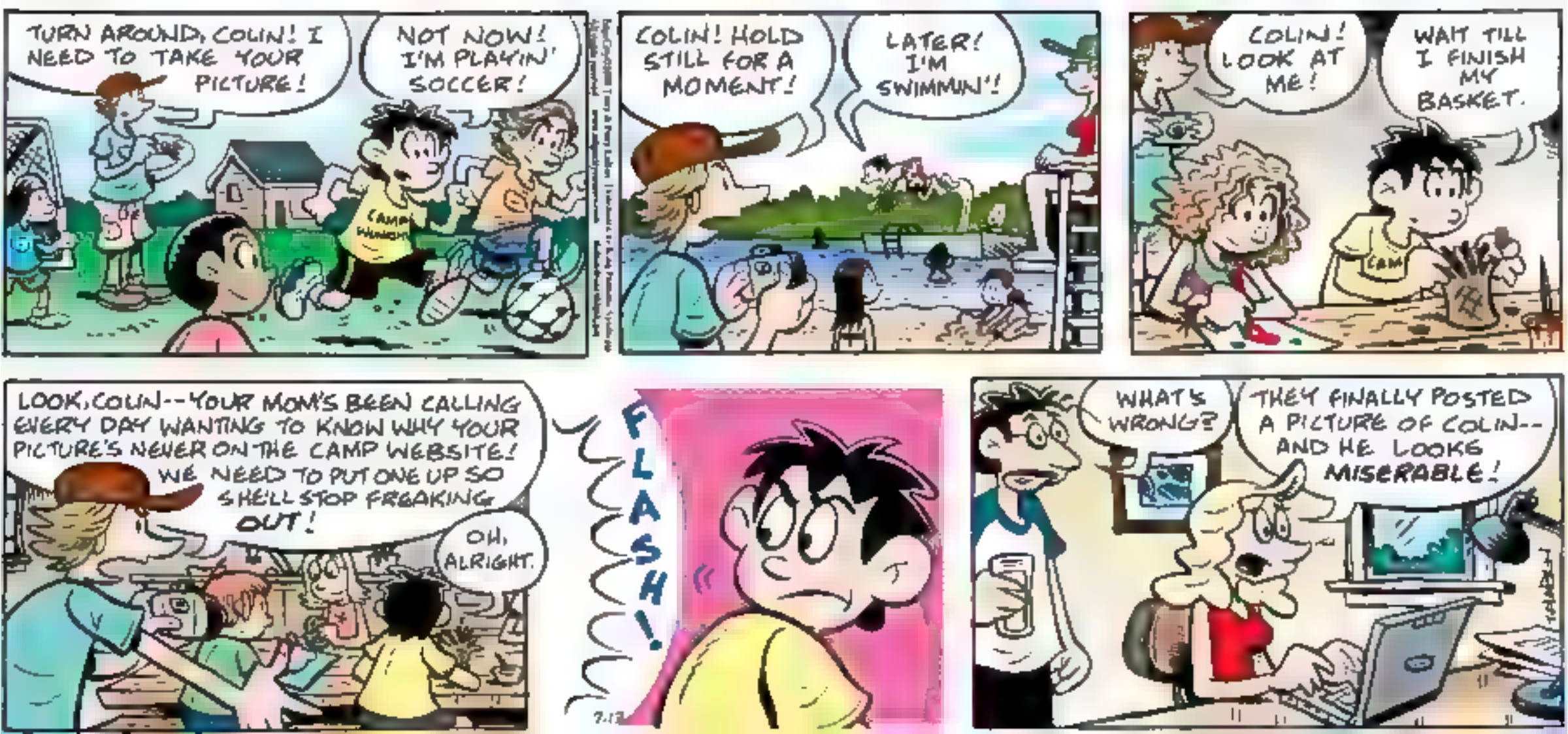
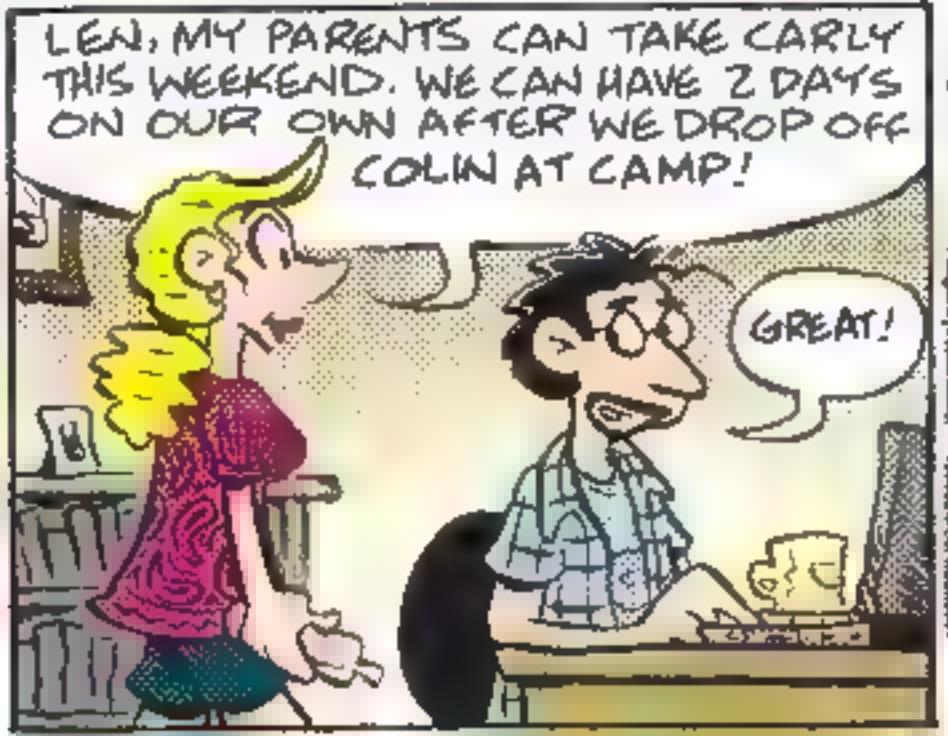
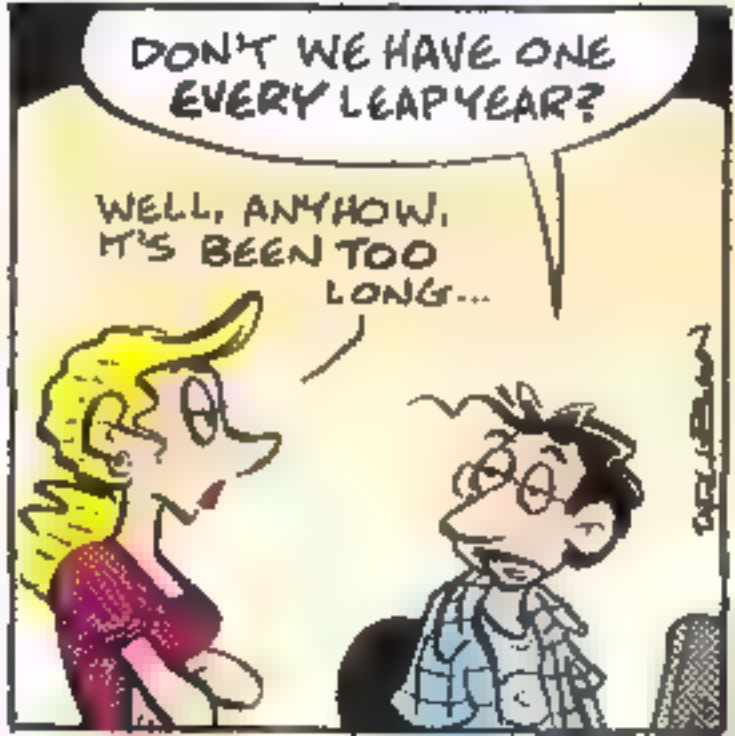

TURN AROUND, COLIN! I NEED TO TAKE YOUR PICTURE!
NOT NOW! I'M PLAYIN' SOCCER!
COLIN! HOLD STILL FOR A MOMENT!
LATER! I'M SWIMMIN'!
COLIN! LOOK AT ME!
WAIT TILL I FINISH MY BASKET.
LOOK, COLIN--YOUR MOM'S BEEN CALLING EVERY DAY WANTING TO KNOW WHY YOUR PICTURE'S NEVER ON THE CAMP WEBSITE! WE NEED TO PUT ONE UP SO SHE'LL STOP FREAKING OUT!
OH, ALRIGHT.
FLASH!
WHAT'S WRONG?
THEY FINALLY POSTED A PICTURE OF COLIN-- AND HE LOOKS MISERABLE!





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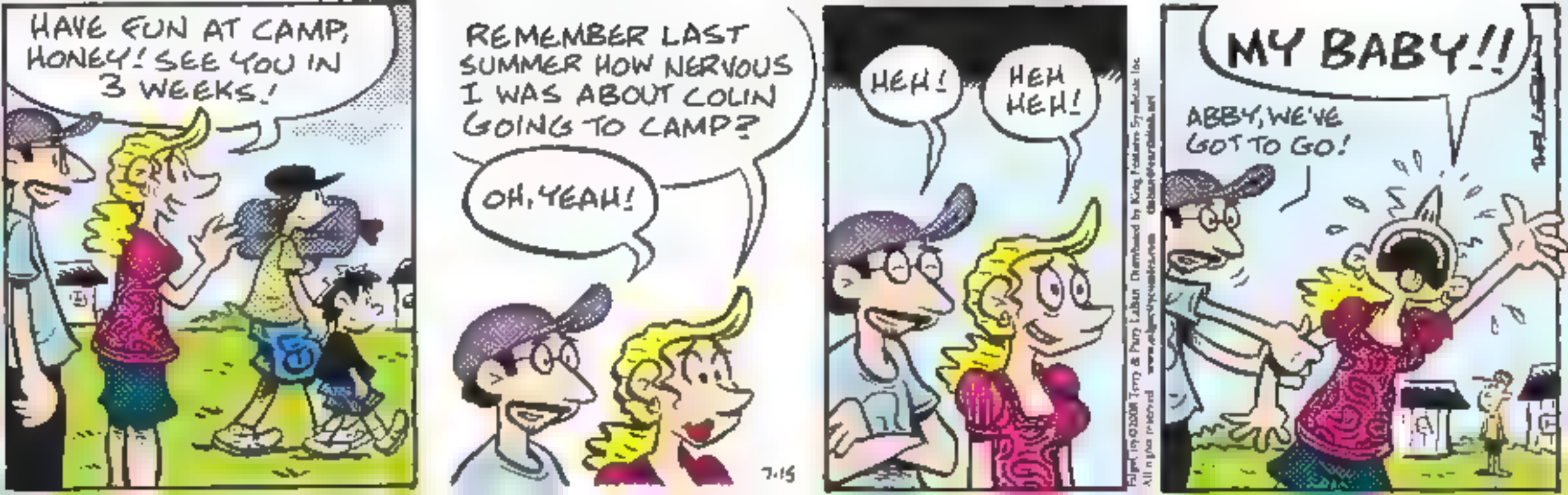
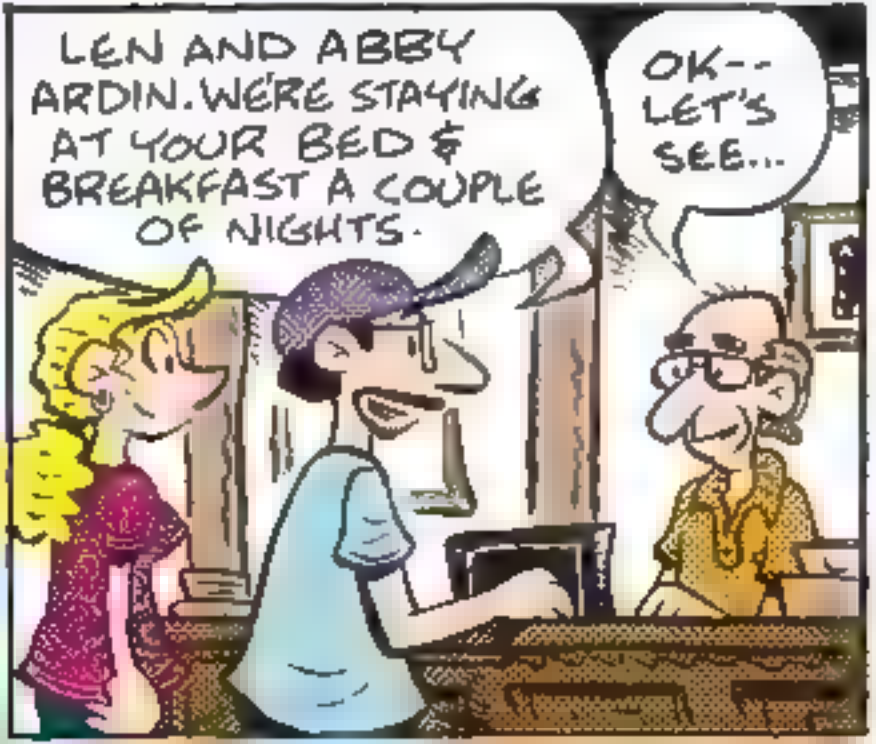
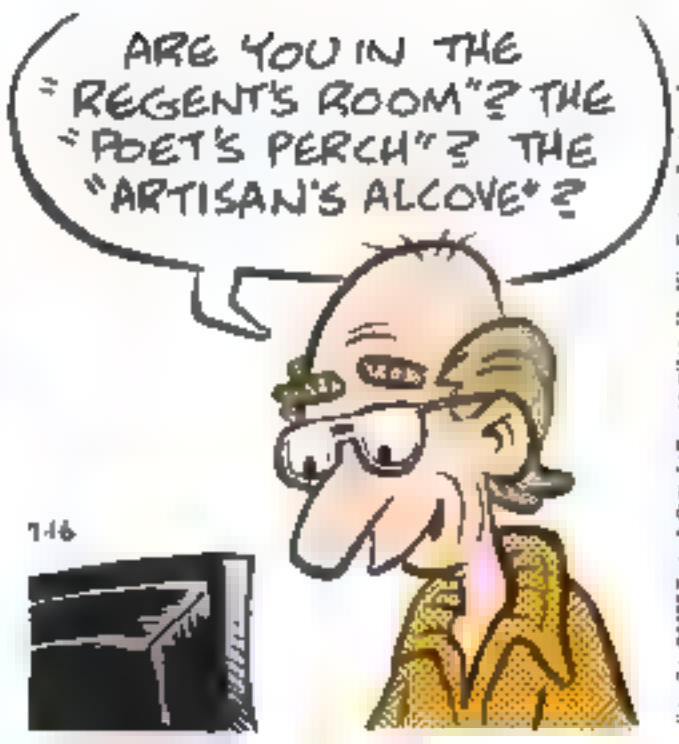
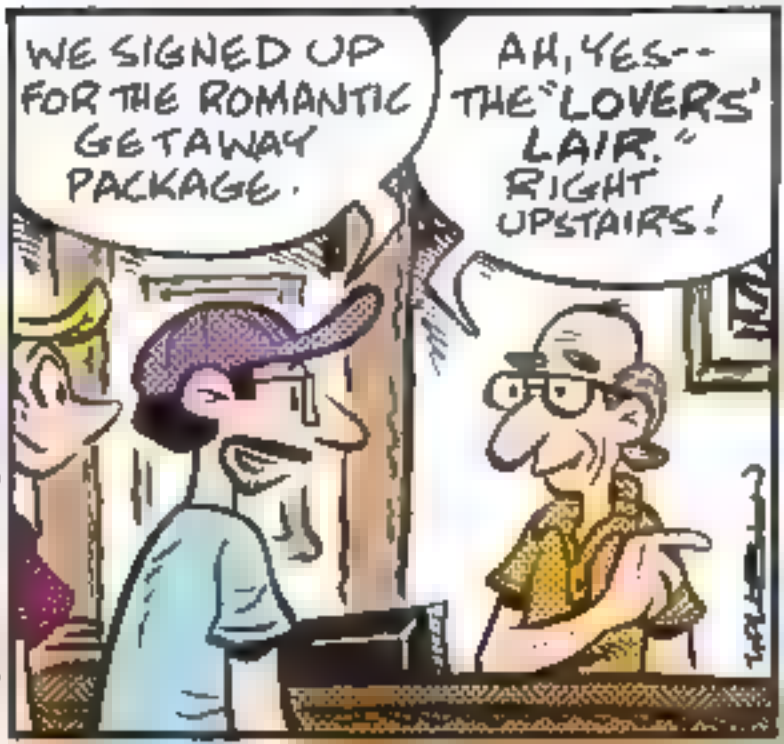
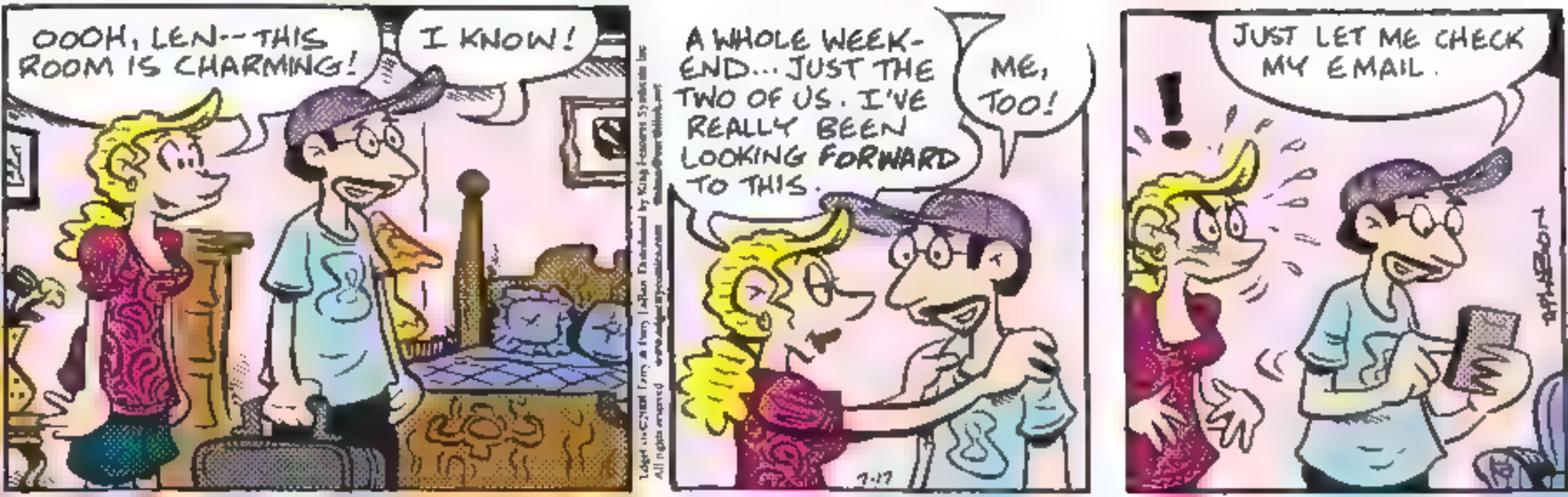
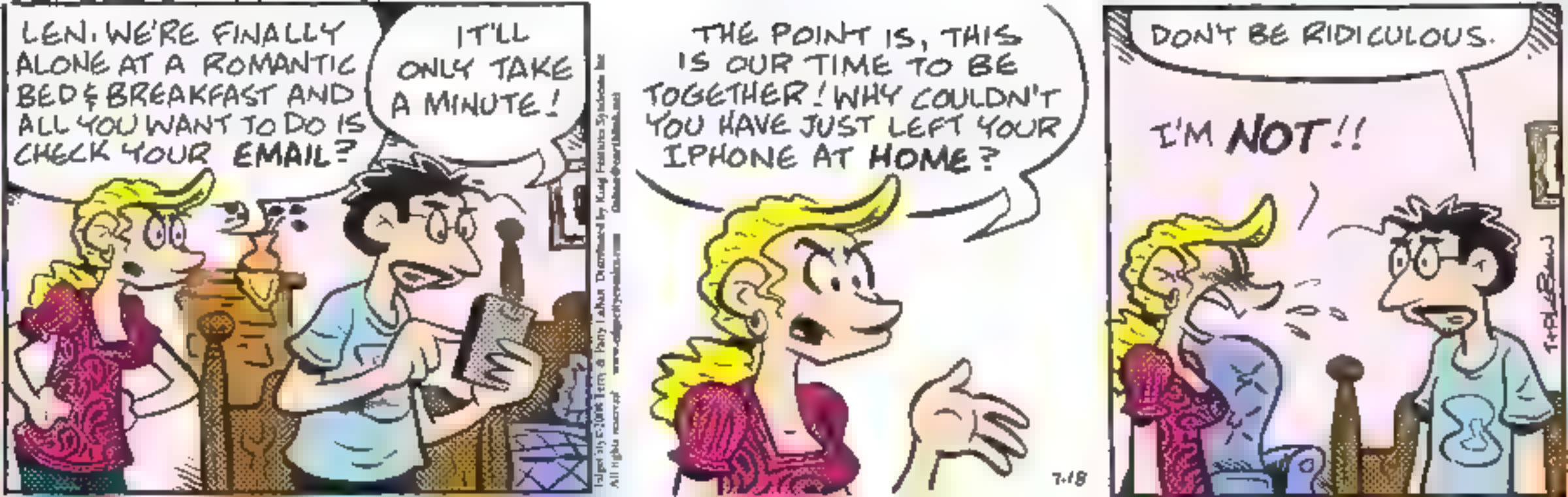

HAVE FUN AT CAMP, HONEY! SEE YOU IN 3 WEEKS!
REMEMBER LAST SUMMER HOW NERVOUS I WAS ABOUT COLIN GOING TO CAMP?
OH, YEAH!
7-15
HEH!
HEH HEH!
MY BABY!!
ABBY, WE'VE GOT TO GO!

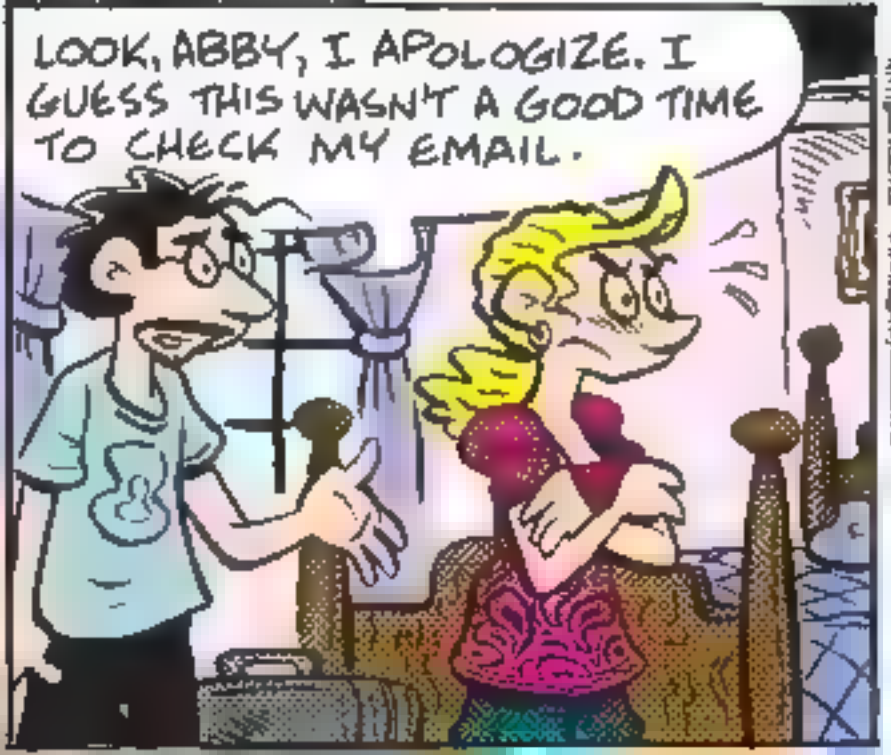

LEN AND ABBY ARDIN. WE'RE STAYING AT YOUR BED & BREAKFAST A COUPLE OF NIGHTS.
OK-- LET'S SEE...


ARE YOU IN THE "REGENT'S ROOM"? THE "POET'S PERCH"? THE "ARTISAN'S ALCOVE"?
146


WE SIGNED UP FOR THE ROMANTIC GETAWAY PACKAGE.
AH, YES-- THE "LOVERS' LAIR," RIGHT UPSTAIRS!


OOOH, LEN--THIS ROOM IS CHARMING!
I KNOW!
A WHOLE WEEK-END... JUST THE TWO OF US. I'VE REALLY BEEN LOOKING FORWARD TO THIS.
ME, TOO!
JUST LET ME CHECK MY EMAIL.
!


LEN, WE'RE FINALLY ALONE AT A ROMANTIC BED & BREAKFAST AND ALL YOU WANT TO DO IS CHECK YOUR EMAIL?
IT'LL ONLY TAKE A MINUTE!
THE POINT IS, THIS IS OUR TIME TO BE TOGETHER! WHY COULDN'T YOU HAVE JUST LEFT YOUR IPHONE AT HOME?
7-18
DON'T BE RIDICULOUS.
I'M NOT!!



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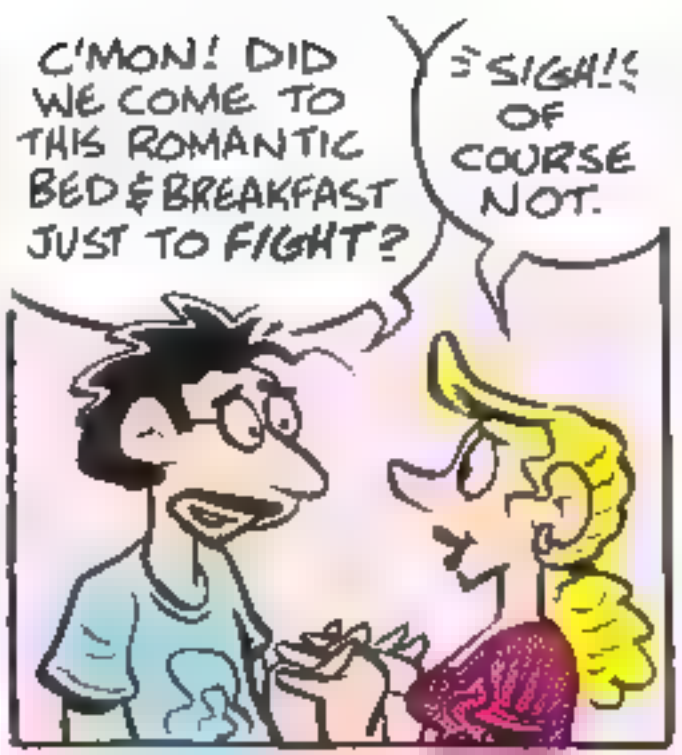
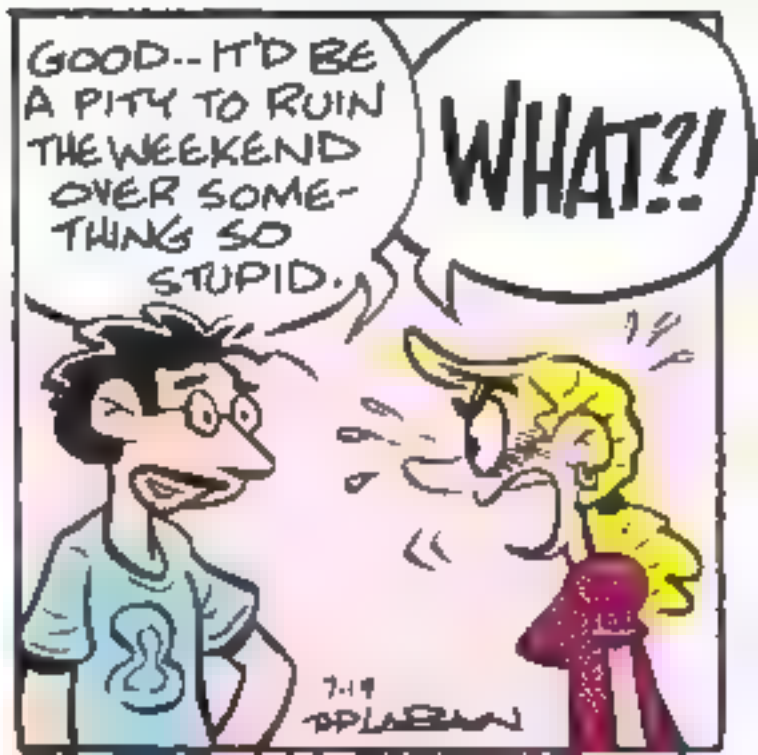
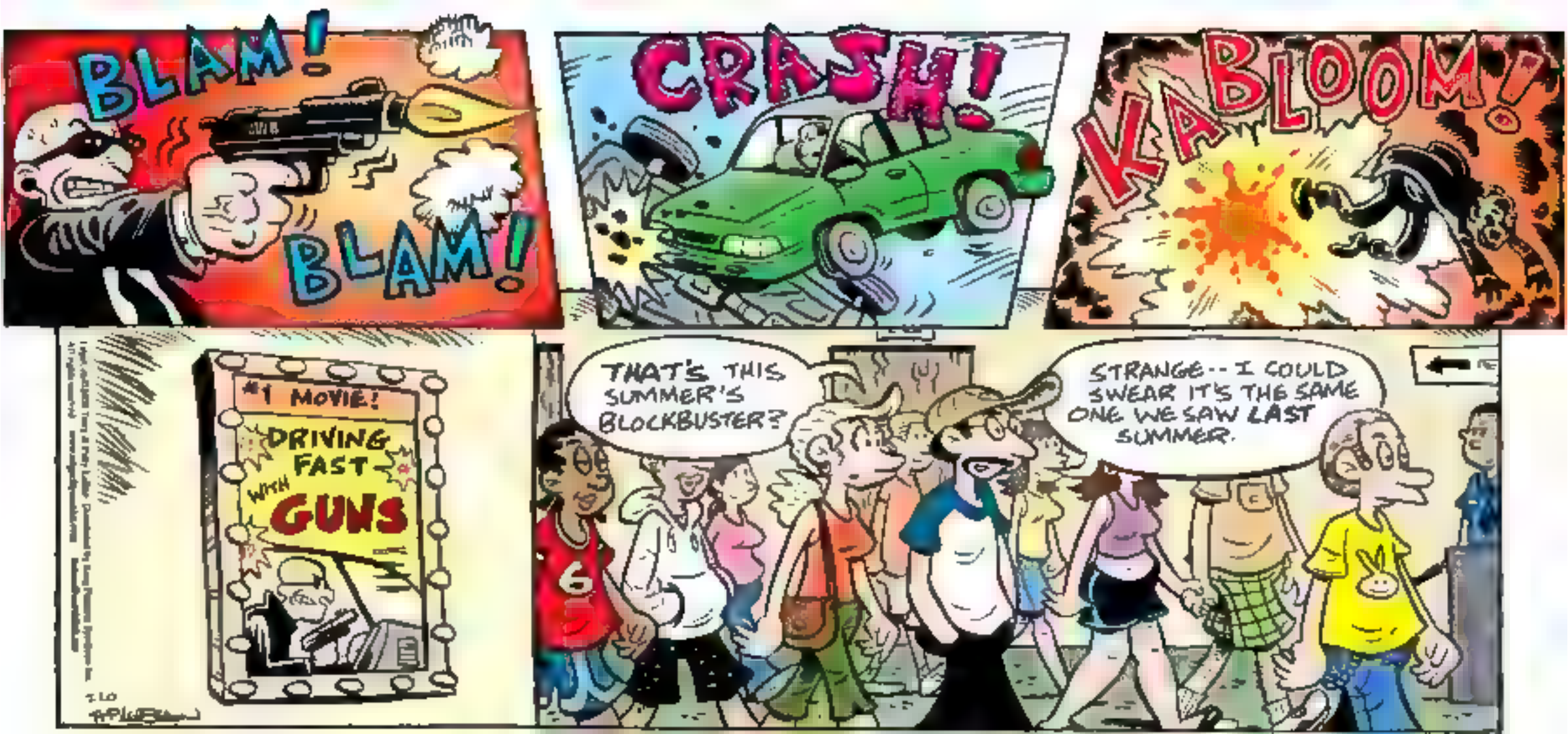
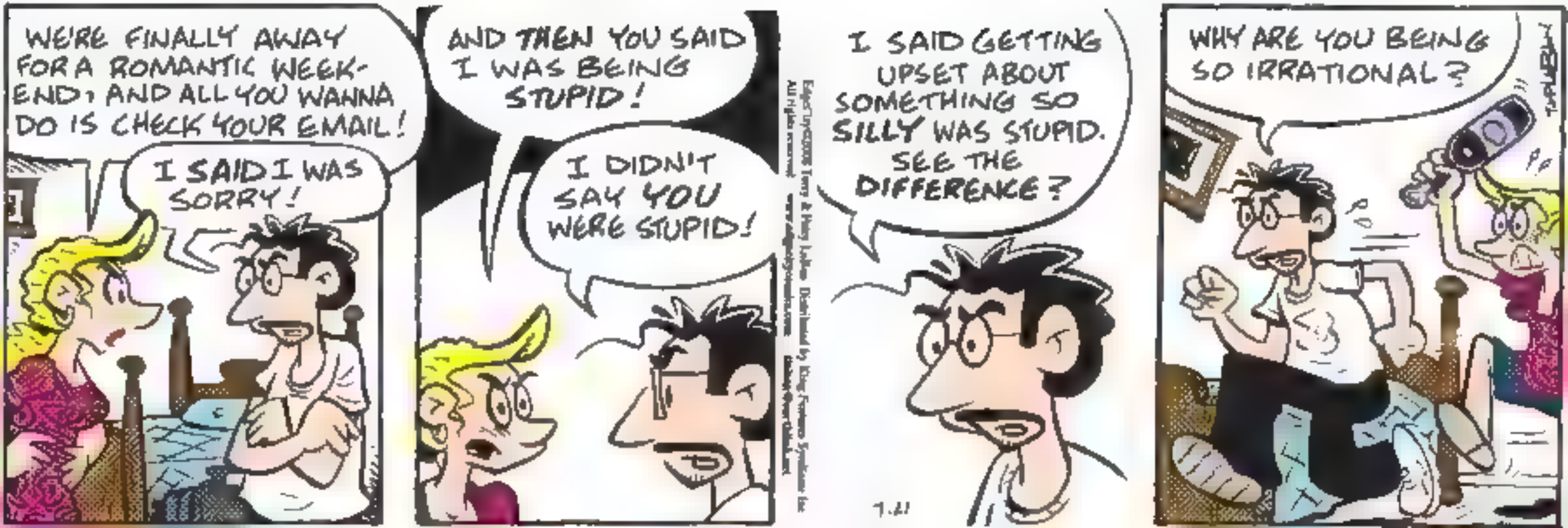
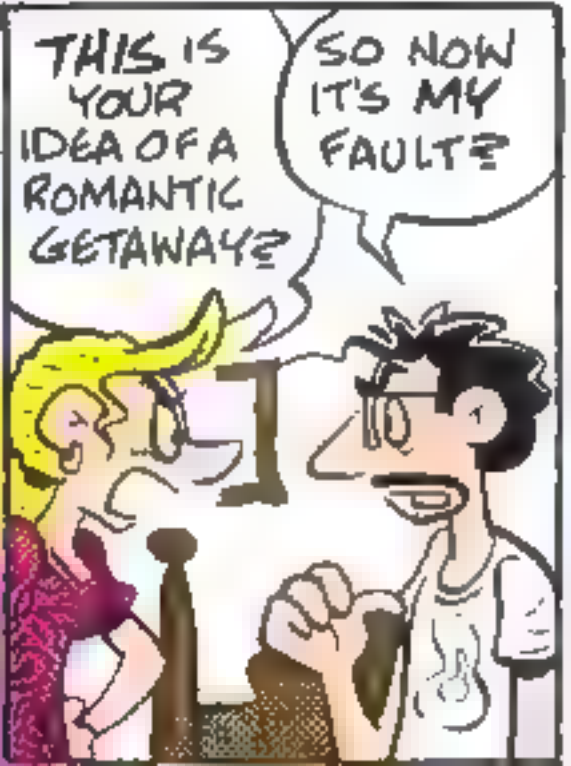


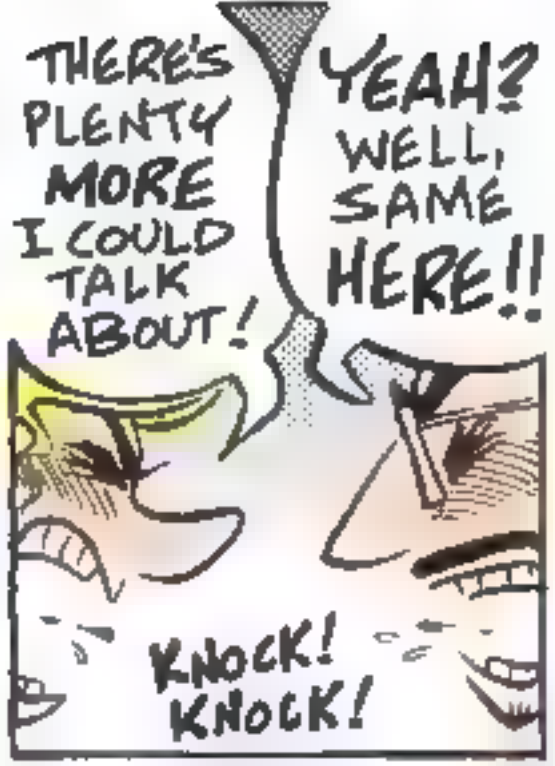



BLAM!
BLAM!
CRASH!
KABLOOM!
#1 MOVIE!
DRIVING FAST WITH GUNS
THAT'S THIS SUMMER'S BLOCKBUSTER?
STRANGE-- I COULD SWEAR IT'S THE SAME ONE WE SAW LAST SUMMER.
6

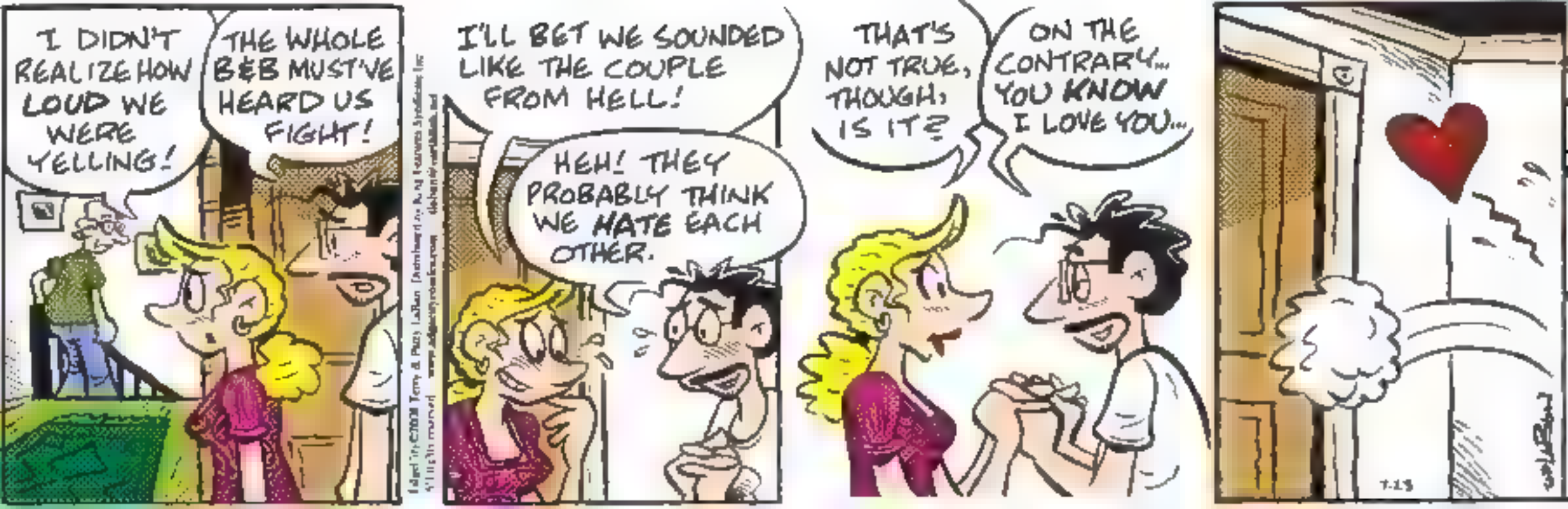

WE'RE FINALLY AWAY FOR A ROMANTIC WEEK-END, AND ALL YOU WANNA DO IS CHECK YOUR EMAIL!
I SAID I WAS SORRY!
AND THEN YOU SAID I WAS BEING STUPID!
I DIDN'T SAY YOU WERE STUPID!
I SAID GETTING UPSET ABOUT SOMETHING SO SILLY WAS STUPID. SEE THE DIFFERENCE?
WHY ARE YOU BEING SO IRRATIONAL?


THIS IS YOUR IDEA OF A ROMANTIC GETAWAY?
SO NOW IT'S MY FAULT?

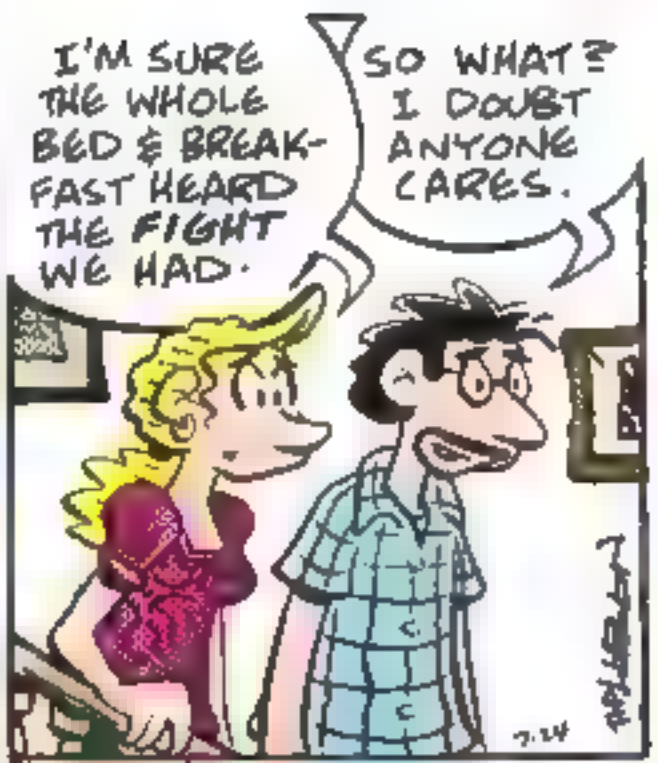
THIS IS JUST LIKE THE TIME WE WENT TO FORT MYERS!
OH, MAN-- WILL YOU EVER GET OVER THAT?!

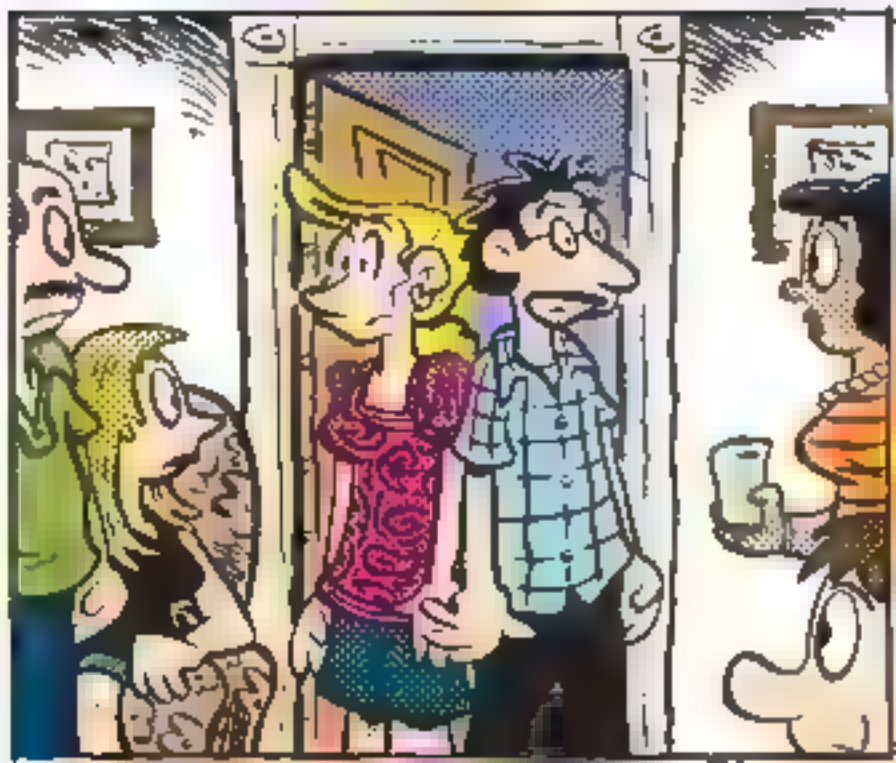

THERE'S PLENTY MORE I COULD TALK ABOUT!
YEAH? WELL, SAME HERE!!
KNOCK! KNOCK!

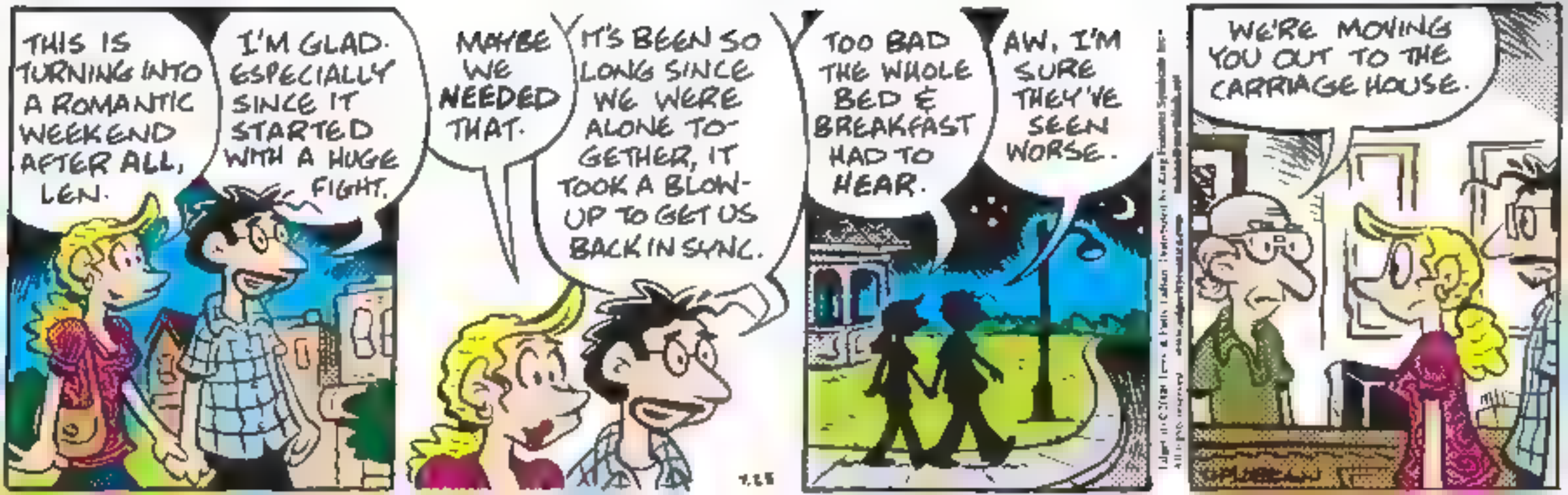
YOU FOLKS OK?
ABSO-LUTELY!
JUST FINE!

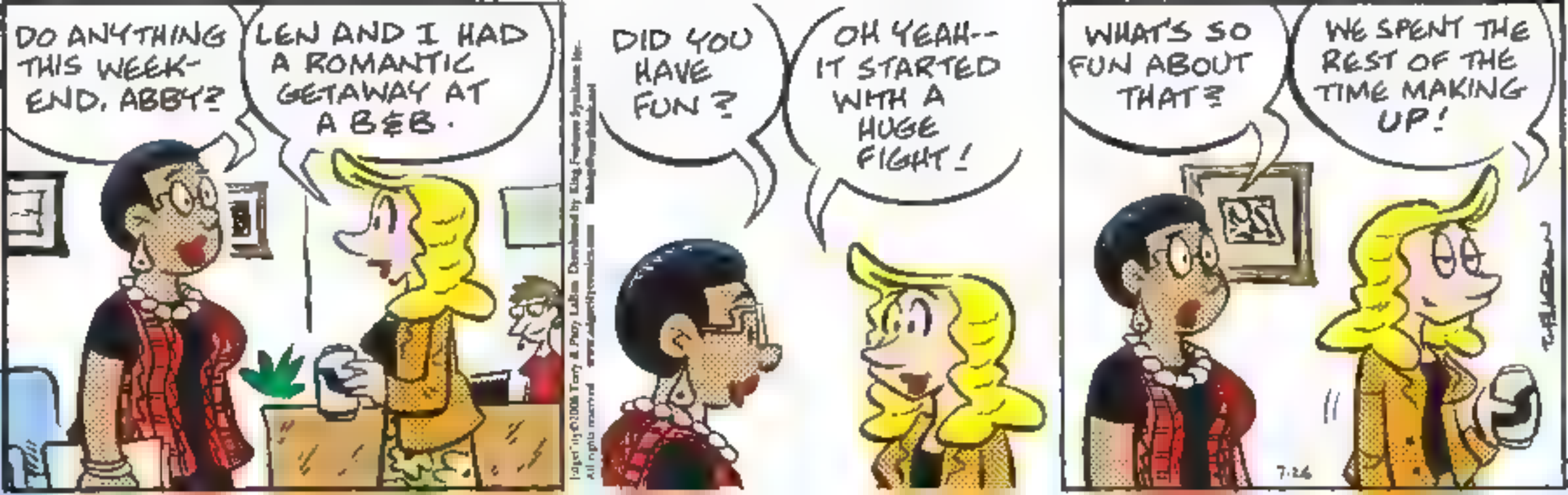

I DIDN'T REALIZE HOW LOUD WE WERE YELLING!
THE WHOLE B&B MUST'VE HEARD US FIGHT!
I'LL BET WE SOUNDED LIKE THE COUPLE FROM HELL!
HEH! THEY PROBABLY THINK WE HATE EACH OTHER.
THAT'S NOT TRUE, THOUGH, IS IT?
ON THE CONTRARY... YOU KNOW I LOVE YOU...

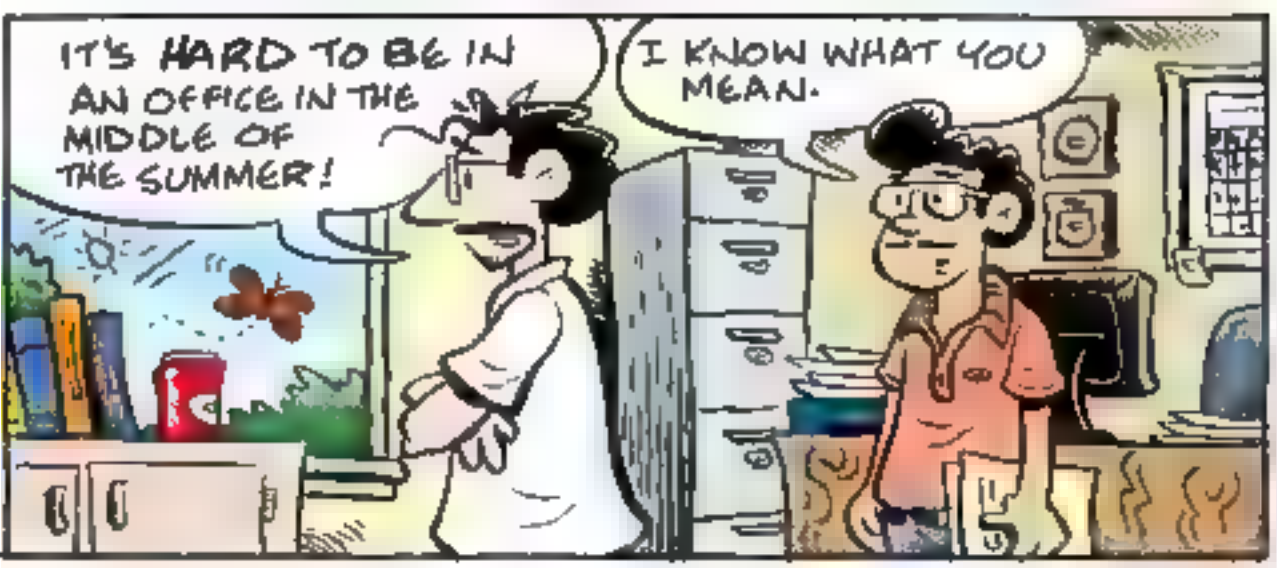
IT'S GETTING LATE. I'M HUNGRY.
LET'S GO INTO TOWN AND GET DINNER.

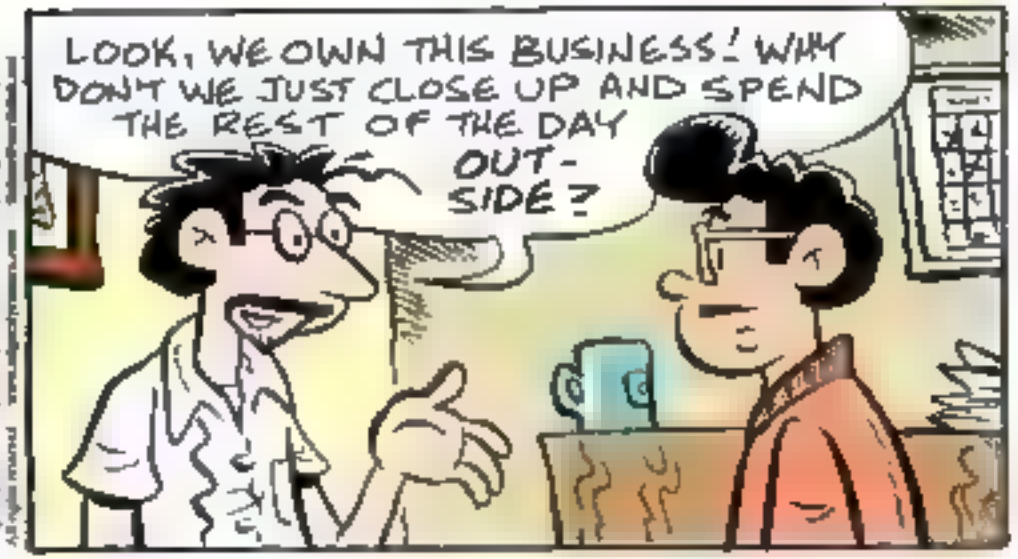

I'M SURE THE WHOLE BED & BREAK-FAST HEARD THE FIGHT WE HAD.
SO WHAT? I DOUBT ANYONE CARES.



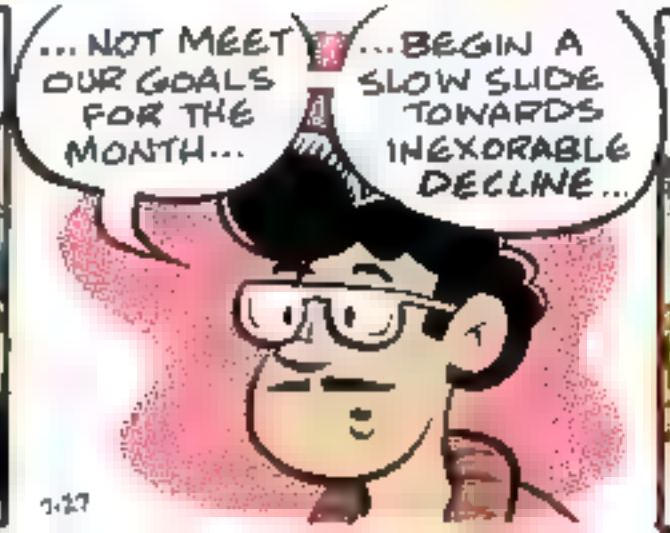

THIS IS TURNING INTO A ROMANTIC WEEKEND AFTER ALL, LEN.
I'M GLAD. ESPECIALLY SINCE IT STARTED WITH A HUGE FIGHT.
MAYBE WE NEEDED THAT.
IT'S BEEN SO LONG SINCE WE WERE ALONE TOGETHER, IT TOOK A BLOW-UP TO GET US BACK IN SYNC.
TOO BAD THE WHOLE BED & BREAKFAST HAD TO HEAR.
AW, I'M SURE THEY'VE SEEN WORSE.
WE'RE MOVING YOU OUT TO THE CARRIAGE HOUSE.


DO ANYTHING THIS WEEK-END, ABBY?
LEN AND I HAD A ROMANTIC GETAWAY AT A B&B.
DID YOU HAVE FUN?
OH YEAH-- IT STARTED WITH A HUGE FIGHT!
WHAT'S SO FUN ABOUT THAT?
WE SPENT THE REST OF THE TIME MAKING UP!
7-26


IT'S HARD TO BE IN AN OFFICE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE SUMMER!
I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN.


LOOK, WE OWN THIS BUSINESS! WHY DON'T WE JUST CLOSE UP AND SPEND THE REST OF THE DAY OUT-SIDE?

WHAT'S THE WORST THAT COULD HAPPEN?
WELL...WE COULD MISS A BUNCH OF ORDERS...


...NOT MEET OUR GOALS FOR THE MONTH...
...BEGIN A SLOW SLIDE TOWARDS INEXORABLE DECLINE...

SIGH!!...I HATE BEING A GROWN UP.
WHY DON'T YOU TAKE 15 MINUTES AND WALK AROUND THE PARKING LOT?

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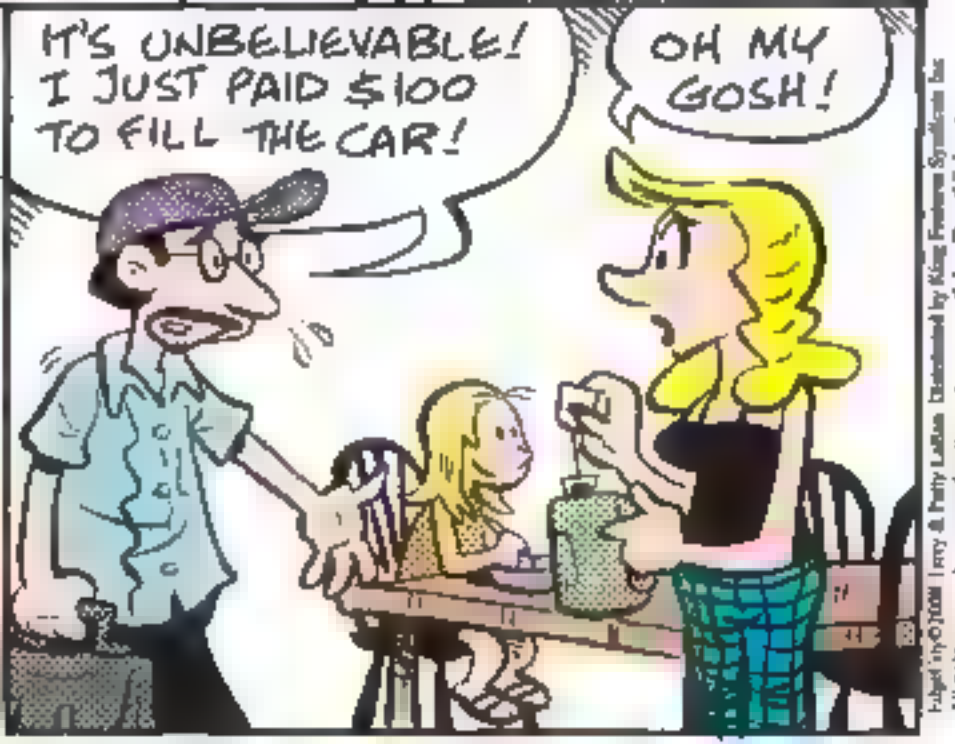

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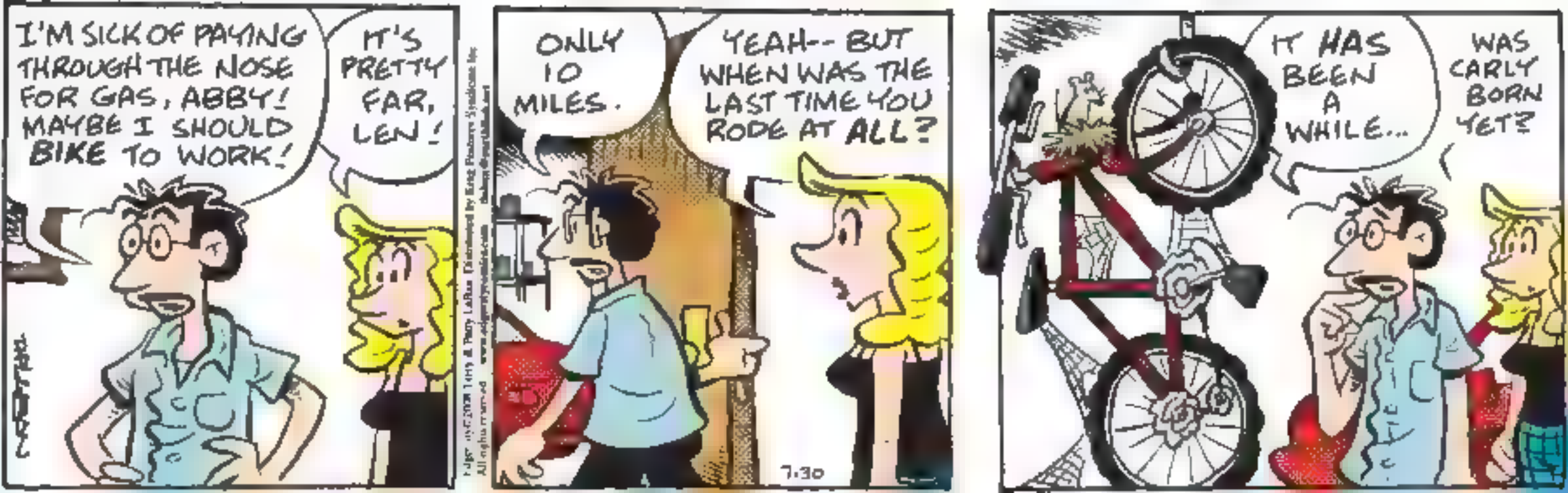
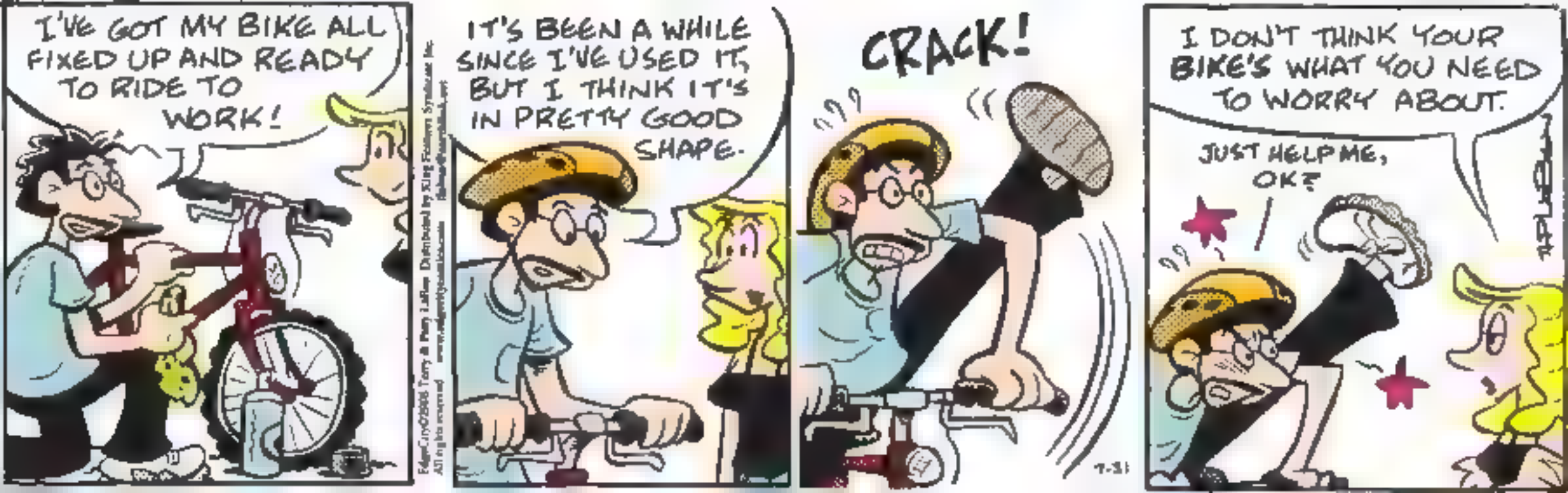
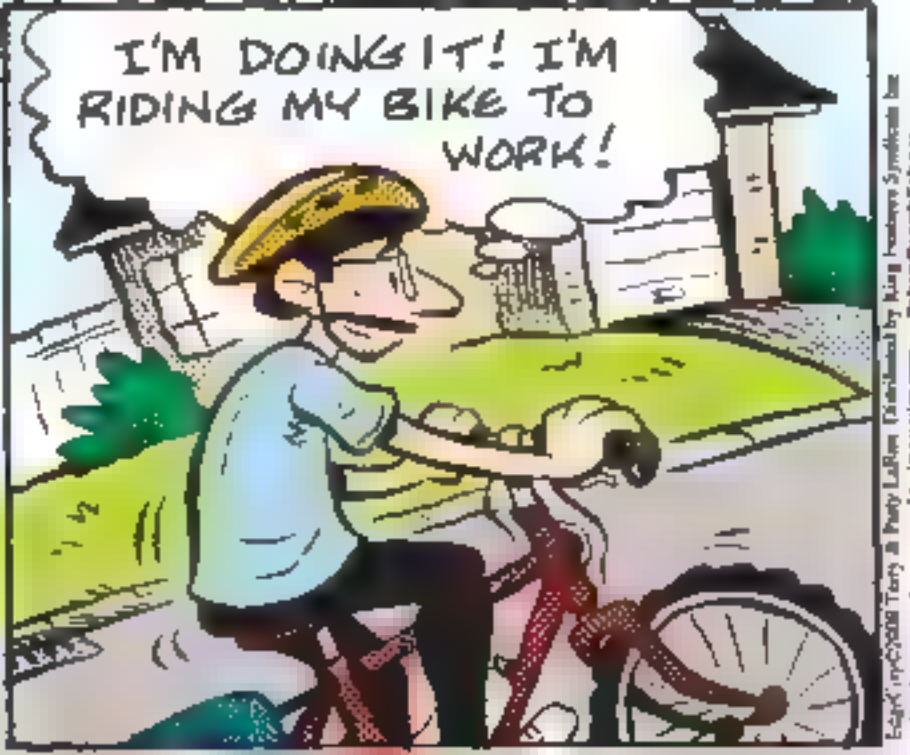
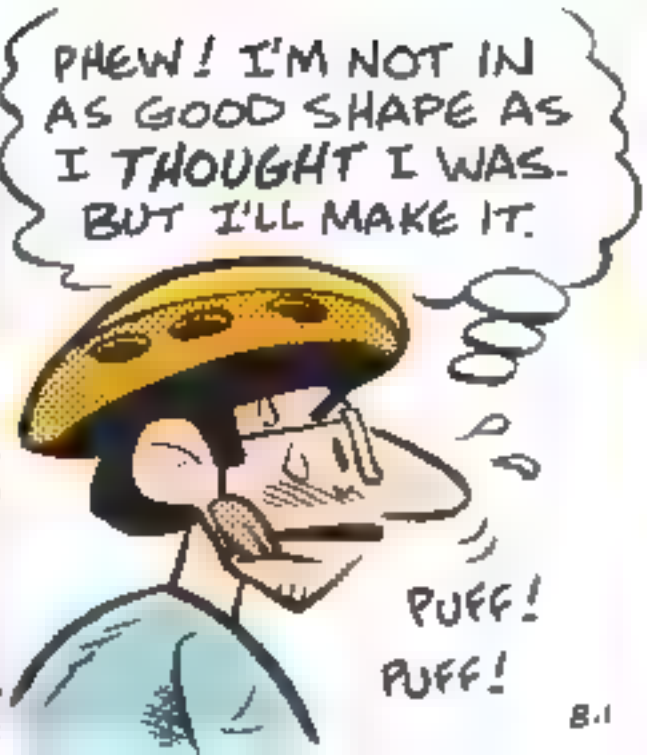
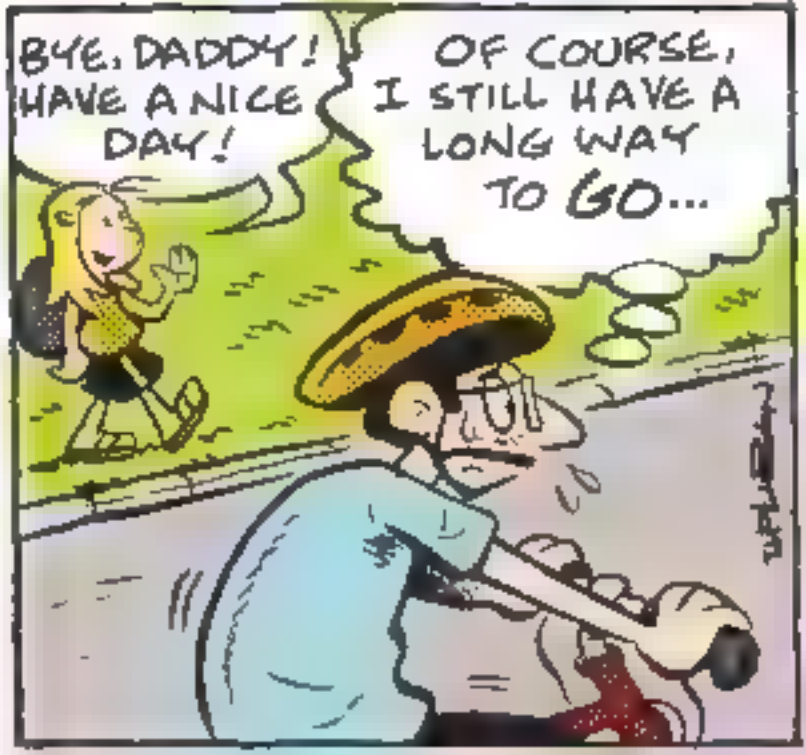

I'M SICK OF PAYING THROUGH THE NOSE FOR GAS, ABBY! MAYBE I SHOULD BIKE TO WORK!
IT'S PRETTY FAR, LEN!
ONLY 10 MILES.
YEAH-- BUT WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU RODE AT ALL?
7-30
IT HAS BEEN A WHILE...
WAS CARLY BORN YET?


I'VE GOT MY BIKE ALL FIXED UP AND READY TO RIDE TO WORK!
IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I'VE USED IT, BUT I THINK IT'S IN PRETTY GOOD SHAPE.
CRACK!
I DON'T THINK YOUR BIKE'S WHAT YOU NEED TO WORRY ABOUT.
JUST HELP ME, OK?







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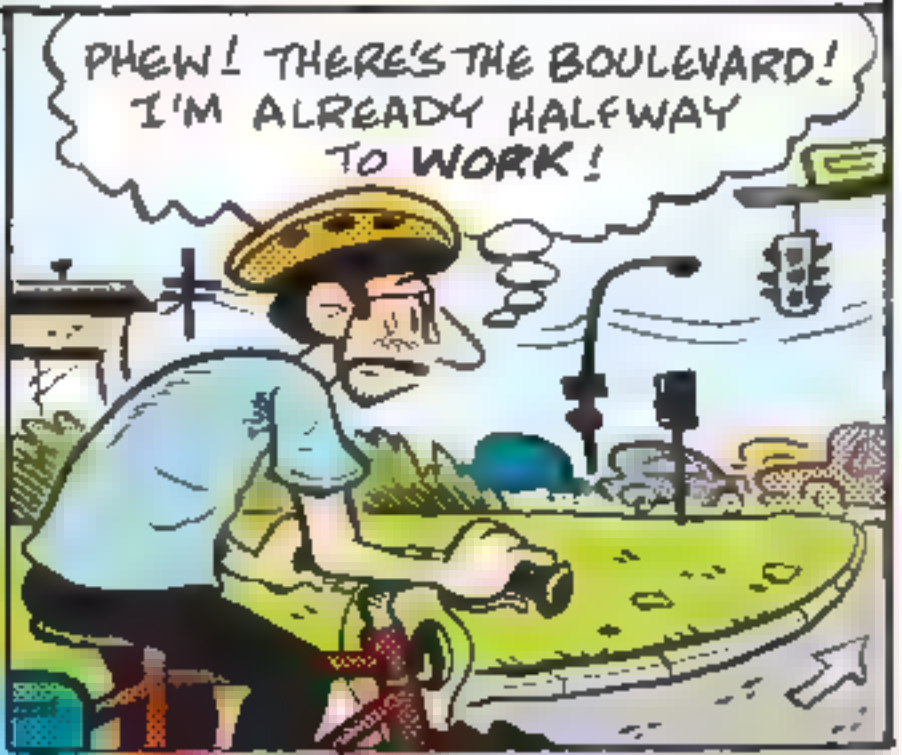

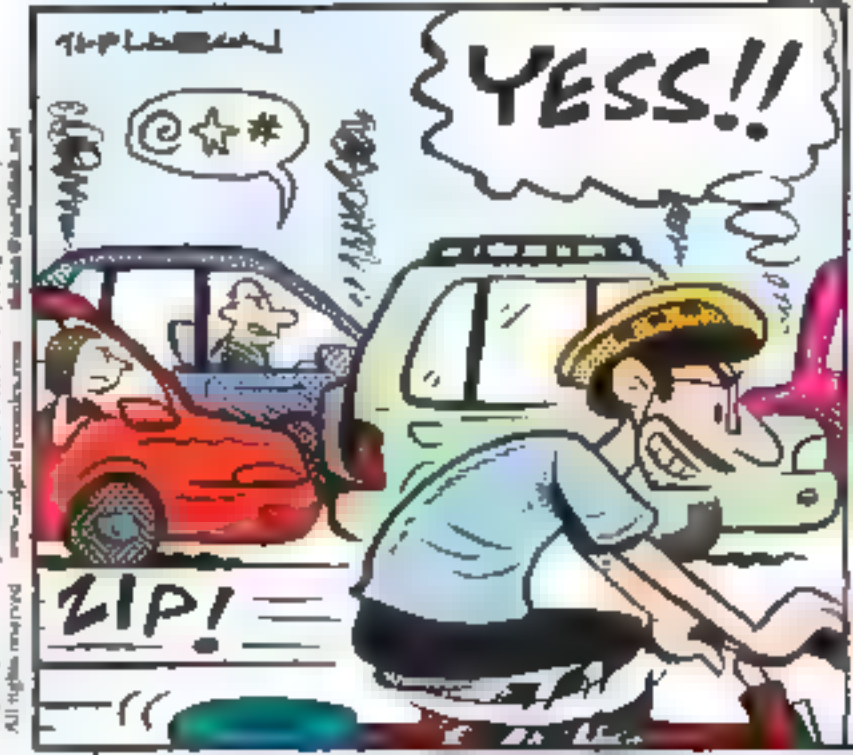

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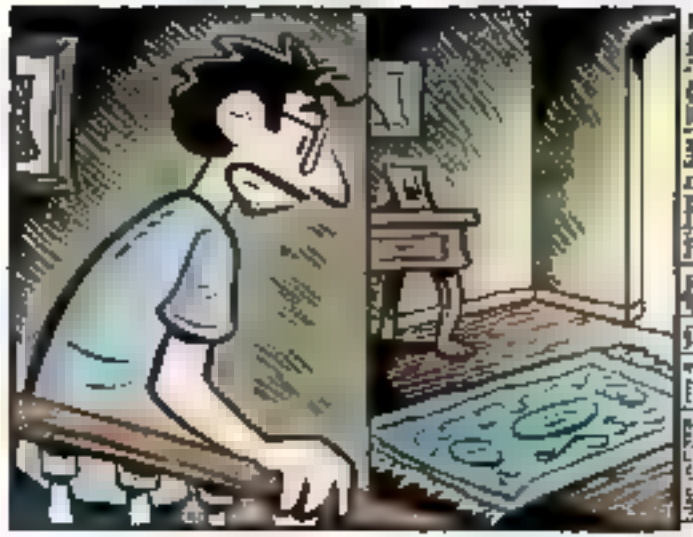
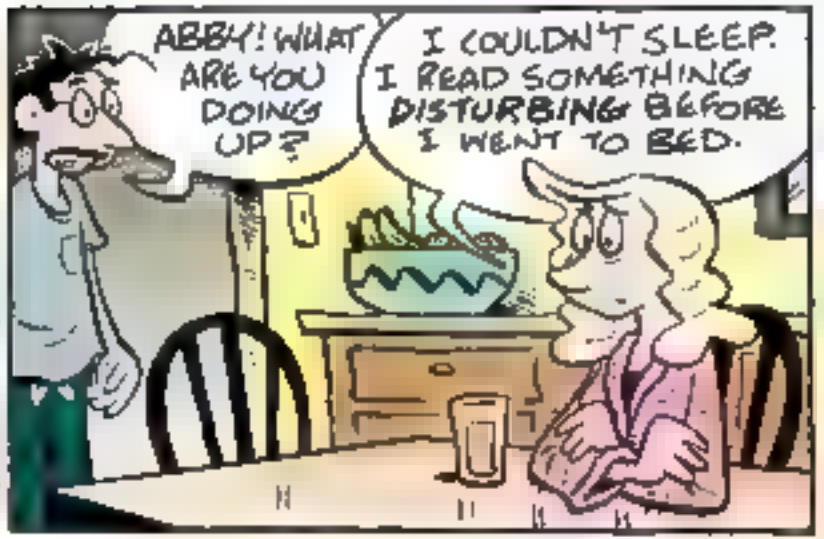
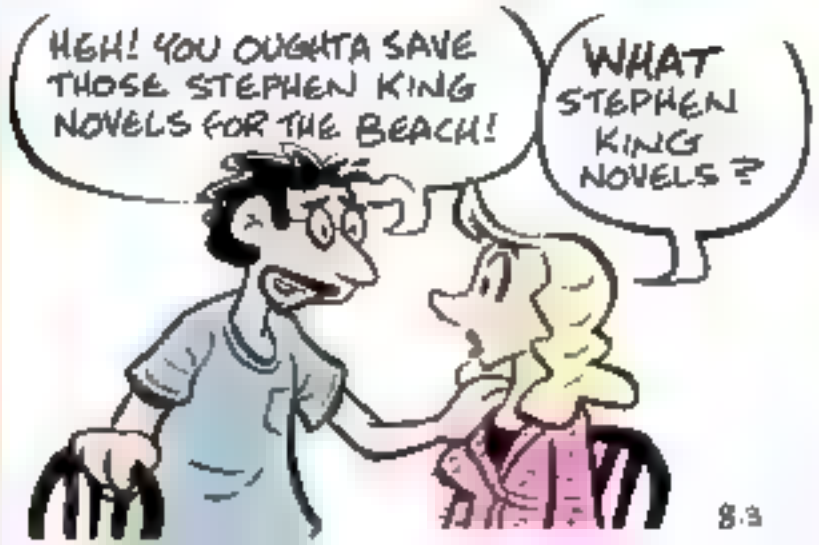
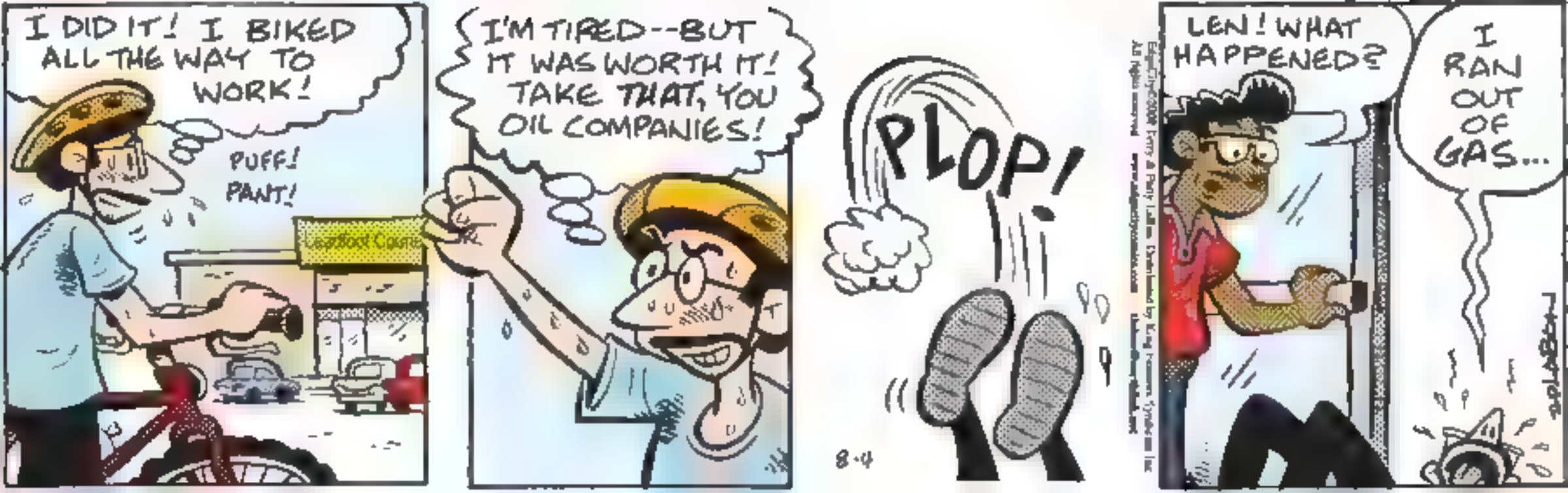


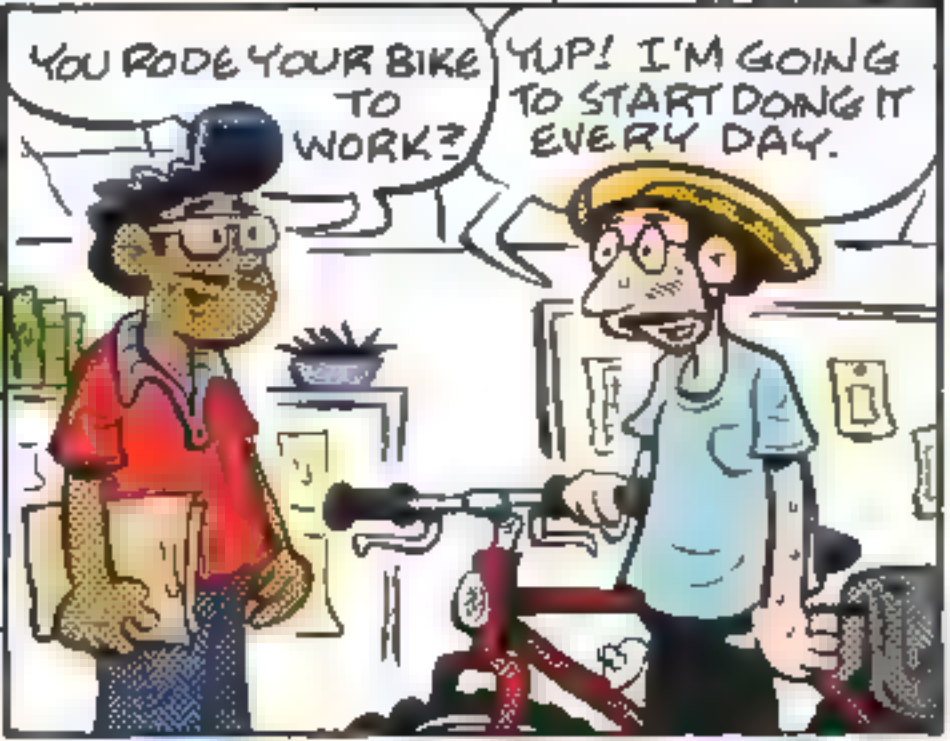

ABBY! WHAT ARE YOU DOING UP?
I COULDN'T SLEEP. I READ SOMETHING DISTURBING BEFORE I WENT TO BED.

IT REALLY FREAKED ME OUT! I JUST COULDN'T STOP THINKING ABOUT IT!


HEH! YOU OUGHTA SAVE THOSE STEPHEN KING NOVELS FOR THE BEACH!
WHAT STEPHEN KING NOVELS?

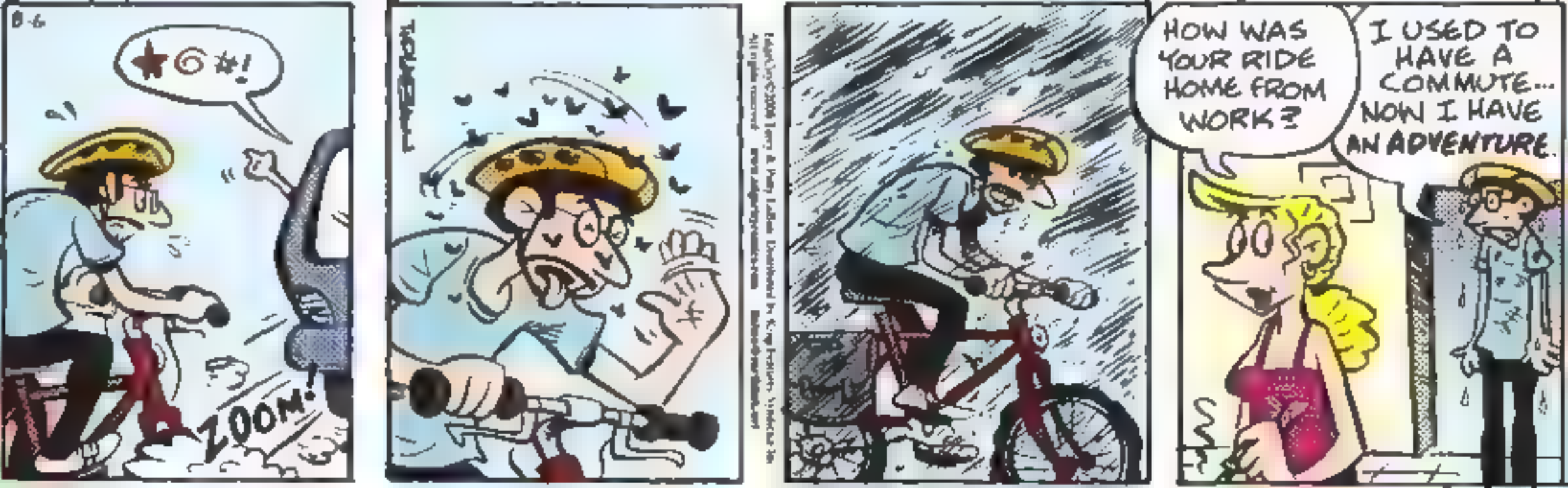
I WAS READING THIS MAGAZINE ARTICLE ABOUT SAVING FOR RETIREMENT!
GULP! NOW I WON'T BE ABLE TO SLEEP EITHER!
ARE YOU READY?

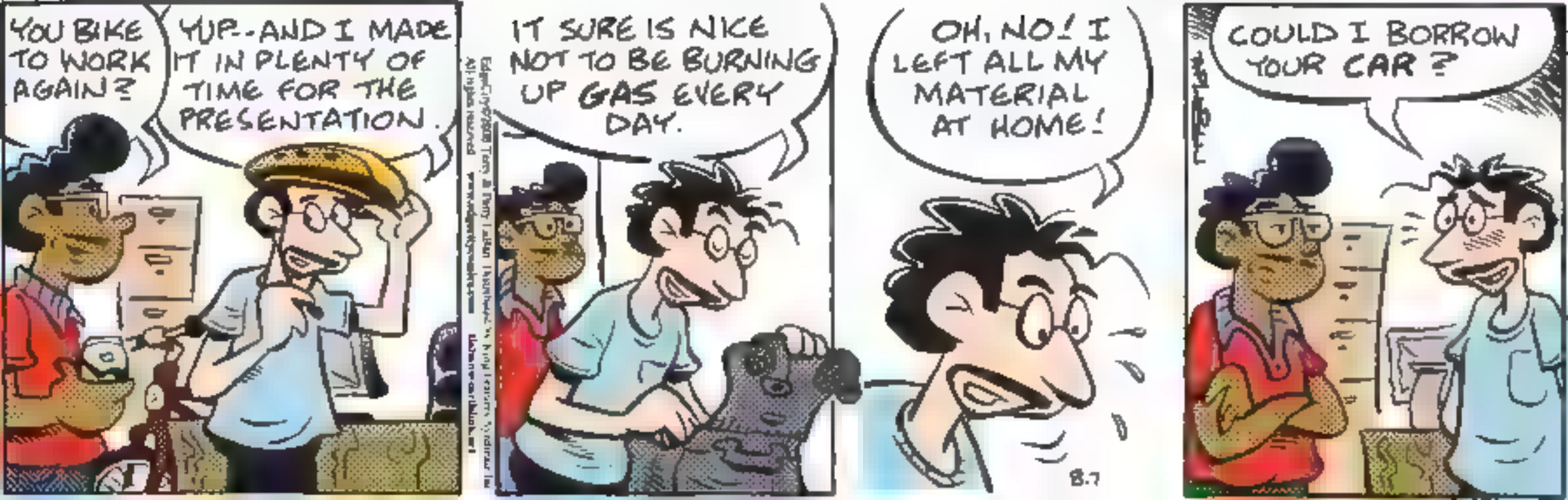

I DID IT! I BIKED ALL THE WAY TO WORK!
PUFF! PANT!
I'M TIRED--BUT IT WAS WORTH IT! TAKE THAT, YOU OIL COMPANIES!
PLOP!
8-4
LEN! WHAT HAPPENED?
I RAN OUT OF GAS...

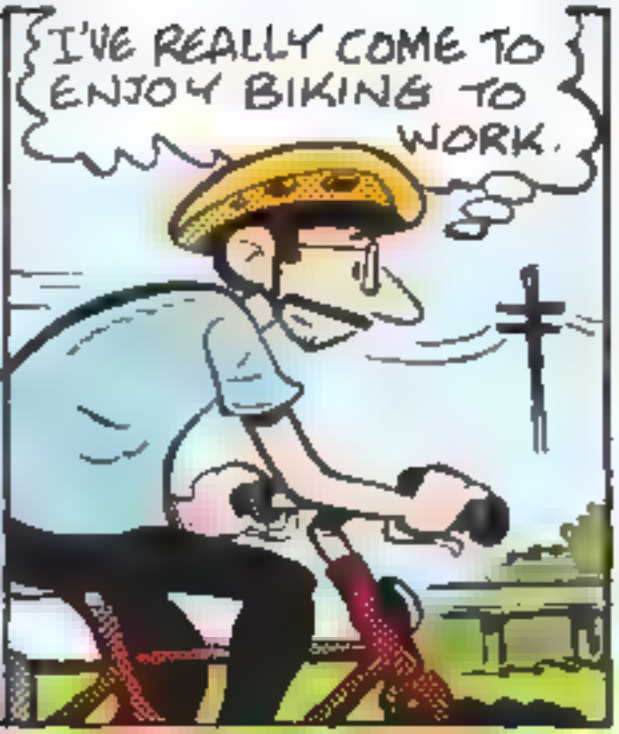

YOU RODE YOUR BIKE TO WORK?
YUP! I'M GOING TO START DOING IT EVERY DAY.

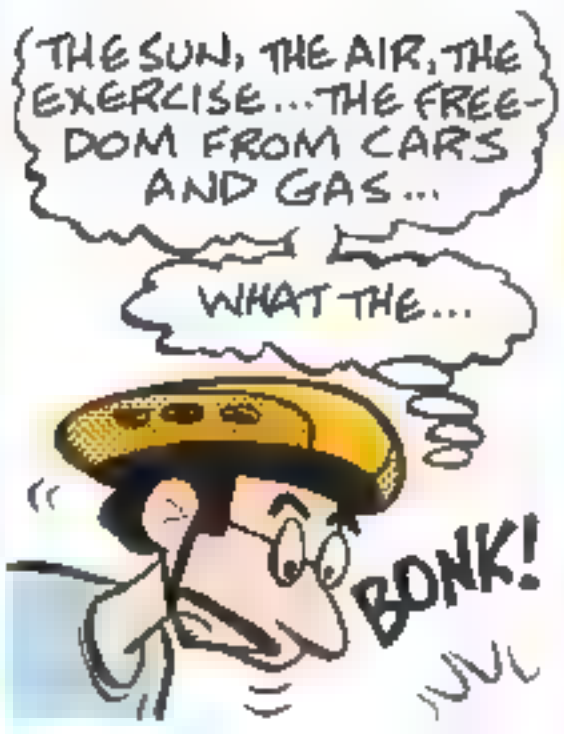
I'M SAVING GAS AND GETTING EXERCISE.
IT SURE BEATS WORKING OUT AT THE "Y"!
8.5

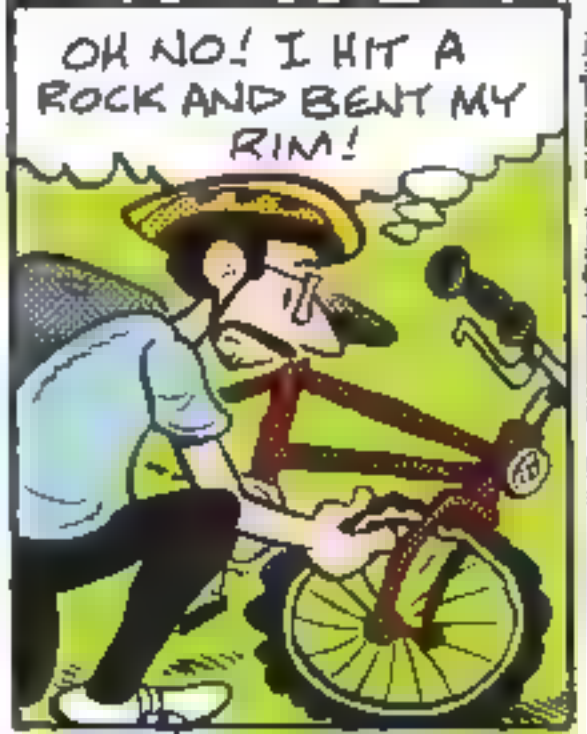
AT LEAST THE "Y" HAS SHOWERS.
YOU THINK THIS BUILDING HAS A HOSE OUT BACK?


B-6
★@#!
ZOOM!
HOW WAS YOUR RIDE HOME FROM WORK?
I USED TO HAVE A COMMUTE... NOW I HAVE AN ADVENTURE.

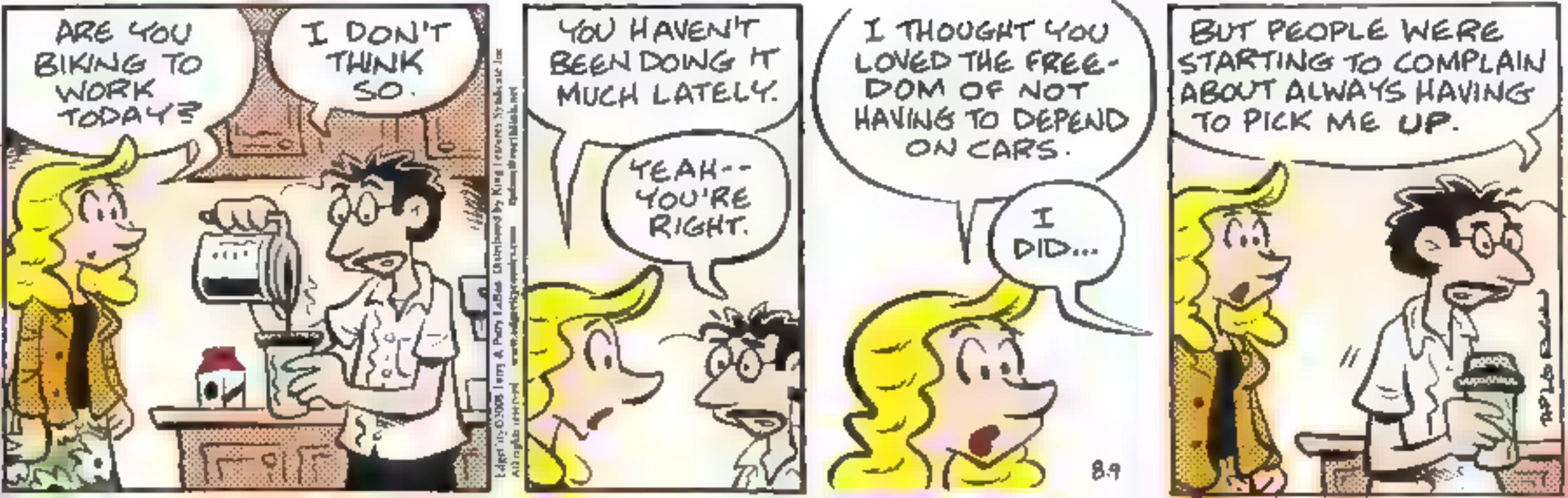

YOU BIKE TO WORK AGAIN?
YUP--AND I MADE IT IN PLENTY OF TIME FOR THE PRESENTATION.
IT SURE IS NICE NOT TO BE BURNING UP GAS EVERY DAY.
OH, NO! I LEFT ALL MY MATERIAL AT HOME!
8.7
COULD I BORROW YOUR CAR?

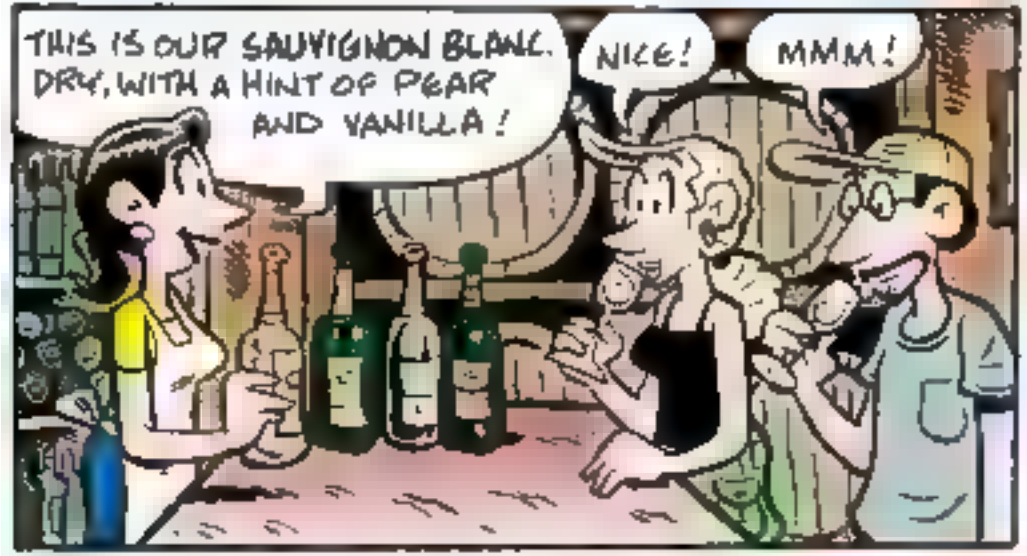

I'VE REALLY COME TO ENJOY BIKING TO WORK.


THE SUN, THE AIR, THE EXERCISE... THE FREEDOM FROM CARS AND GAS...
WHAT THE...
BONK!

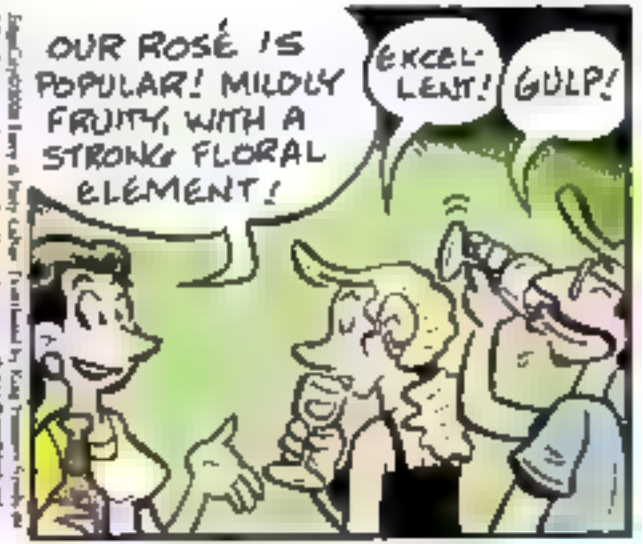

OH NO! I HIT A ROCK AND BENT MY RIM!

RAJIV? LEN! CAN YOU SEND SOMEONE TO PICK ME UP?
8-9


ARE YOU BIKING TO WORK TODAY?
I DON'T THINK SO.
YOU HAVEN'T BEEN DOING IT MUCH LATELY.
YEAH-- YOU'RE RIGHT.
I THOUGHT YOU LOVED THE FREEDOM OF NOT HAVING TO DEPEND ON CARS.
I DID...
BUT PEOPLE WERE STARTING TO COMPLAIN ABOUT ALWAYS HAVING TO PICK ME UP.

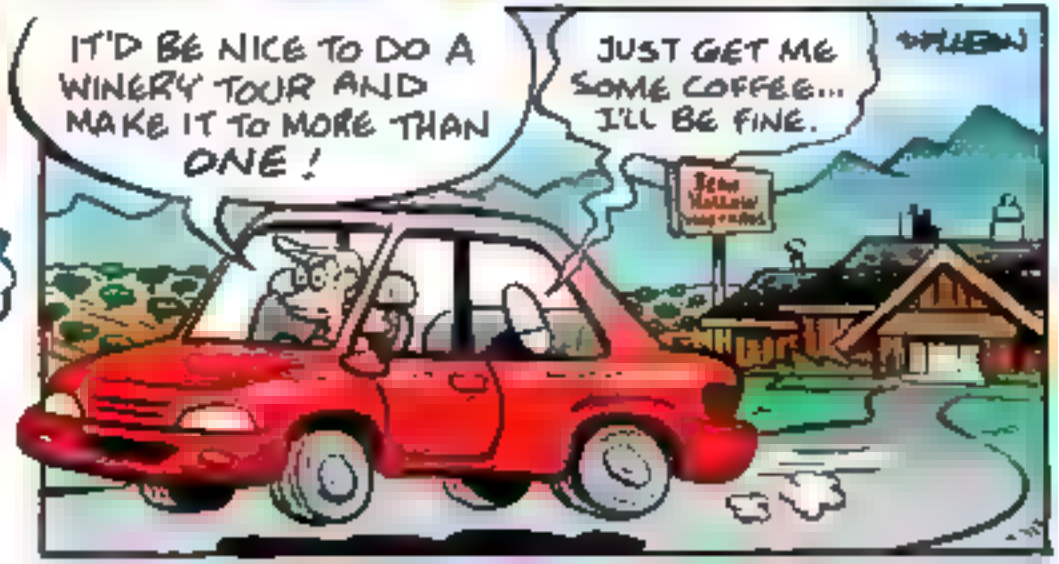

THIS IS OUR SAUVIGNON BLANC. DRY, WITH A HINT OF PEAR AND VANILLA!
NICE!
MMM!

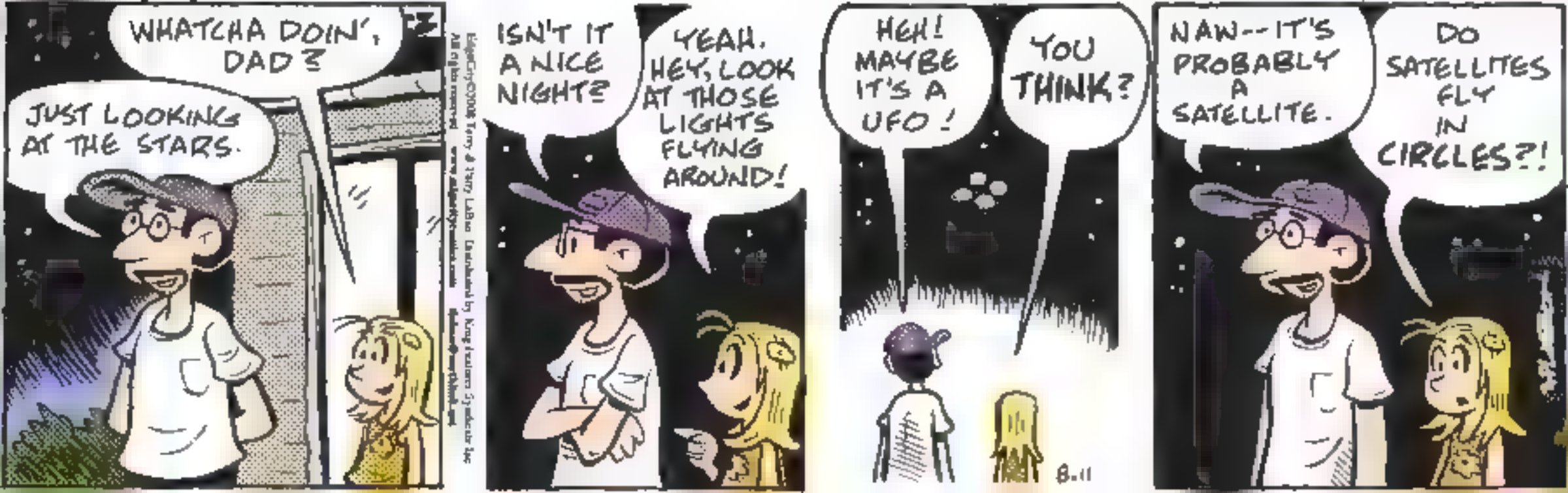
THIS IS OUR CABERNET... ROBUST, BUT NOT TOO OAKY.
TASTY!
SNUK!

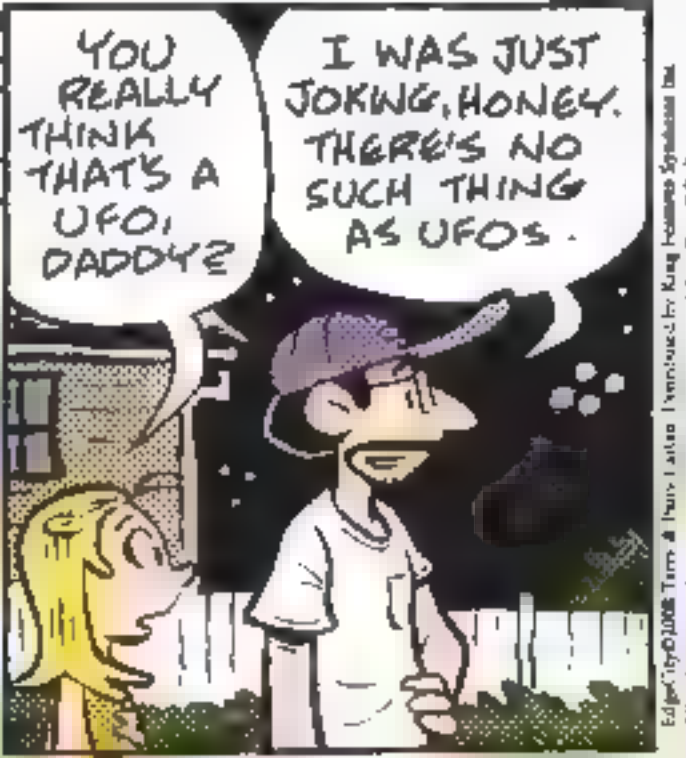

OUR ROSÉ IS POPULAR! MILDLY FRUITY, WITH A STRONG FLORAL ELEMENT!
EXCEL-LENT!
GULP!

WE'RE PARTICULARLY PROUD OF OUR RIESLING.
I LOVE IT!
GLUG!

!
!
PLOP!


IT'D BE NICE TO DO A WINERY TOUR AND MAKE IT TO MORE THAN ONE!
JUST GET ME SOME COFFEE... I'LL BE FINE.


WHATCHA DOIN', DAD?
JUST LOOKING AT THE STARS.
ISN'T IT A NICE NIGHT?
YEAH. HEY, LOOK AT THOSE LIGHTS FLYING AROUND!
HEH! MAYBE IT'S A UFO!
YOU THINK?
NAW--IT'S PROBABLY A SATELLITE.
DO SATELLITES FLY IN CIRCLES?!



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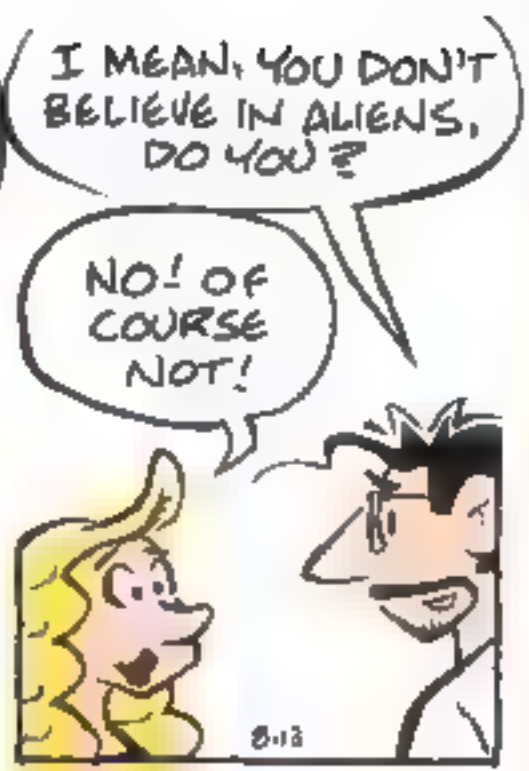
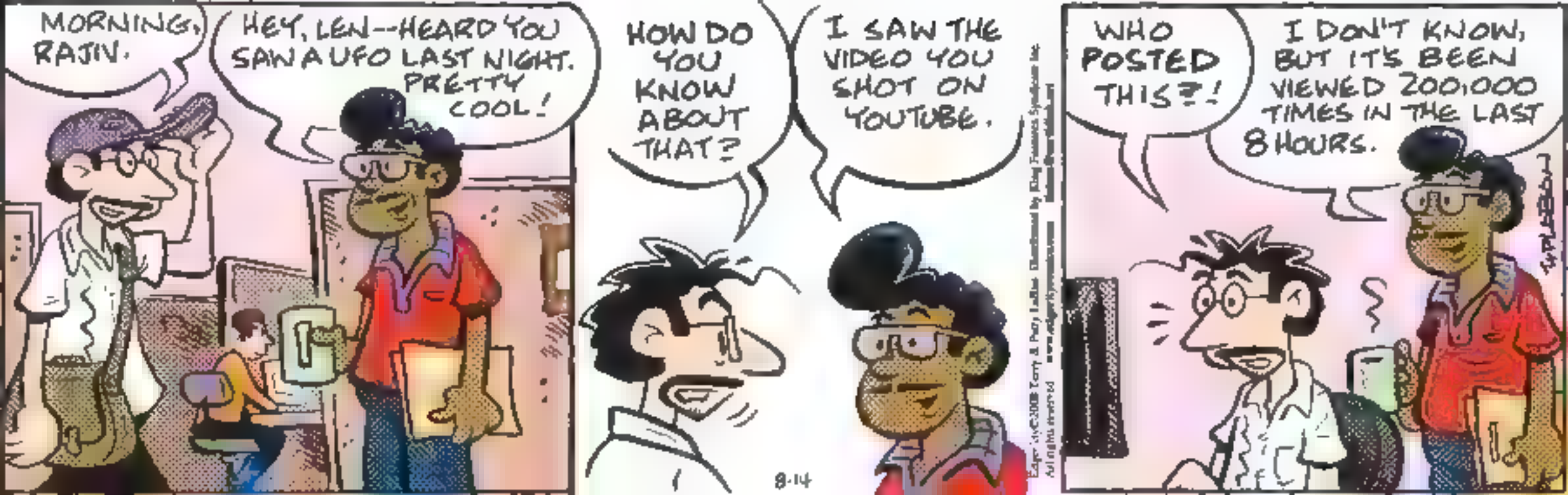
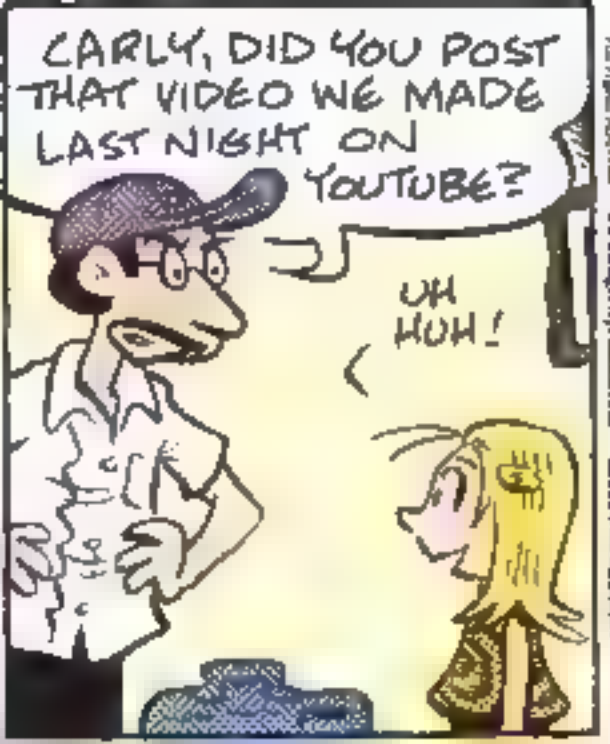
LEN, WHY IS CARLY HOLLERING ABOUT UFOS?
AW, I WAS JUST JOKING ABOUT SOME LIGHTS WE SAW IN THE SKY. HERE--I MADE A VIDEO.

OH MY GOSH! THAT'S REALLY WEIRD!
WELL, I'M SURE THERE'S A LOGICAL EXPLANATION.


I MEAN, YOU DON'T BELIEVE IN ALIENS, DO YOU?
NO! OF COURSE NOT!

WHAT IF THEY WANT TO ABDUCT ONE OF US?
ABBY...


MORNING, RAJIV.
HEY, LEN--HEARD YOU SAW A UFO LAST NIGHT. PRETTY COOL!
HOW DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THAT?
I SAW THE VIDEO YOU SHOT ON YOUTUBE.
8-14
WHO POSTED THIS?!
I DON'T KNOW, BUT IT'S BEEN VIEWED 200,000 TIMES IN THE LAST 8 HOURS.



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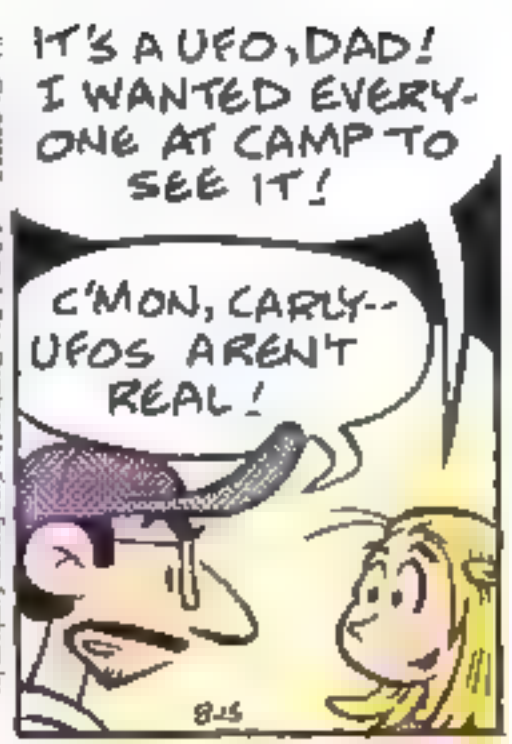
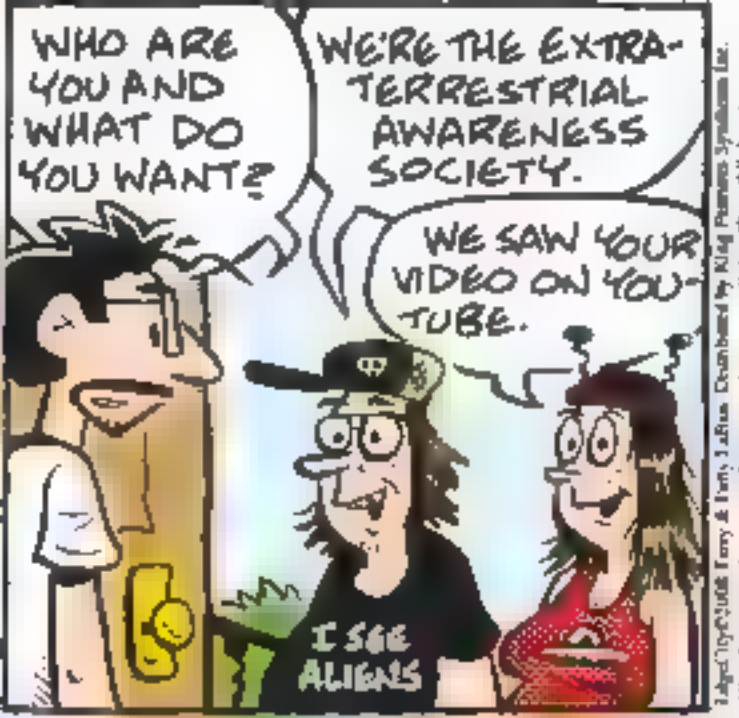



WHO ARE YOU AND WHAT DO YOU WANT?
WE'RE THE EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL AWARENESS SOCIETY.
WE SAW YOUR VIDEO ON YOU-TUBE.
I SEE ALIENS

WILL YOU DO US THE HONOR OF ADDRESS-ING OUR NEXT MEETING?
ABSOLUTELY NOT!

WHATEVER THAT VIDEO SHOWED, IT WASN'T A UFO! I DON'T BELIEVE THEY EVEN EXIST!
8-16

THAT'S WHAT THE ALIENS TOLD ME TO SAY, TOO!
DON'T BE AFRAID-- WE'RE YOUR FRIENDS!

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT'S TIME TO PICK COLIN UP AT CAMP ALREADY.

I KNOW--THE 3 WEEKS REALLY FLEW BY.

CAMP WUNKA-TUNK

WE'RE LOOKING FOR COLIN ARDIN.

BUNK 5. RIGHT OVER THERE.

I'VE MISSED HIM SO MUCH! I HOPE HE'S ALL RIGHT!

OH, I'M SURE HE'S JUST FINE.

!

!

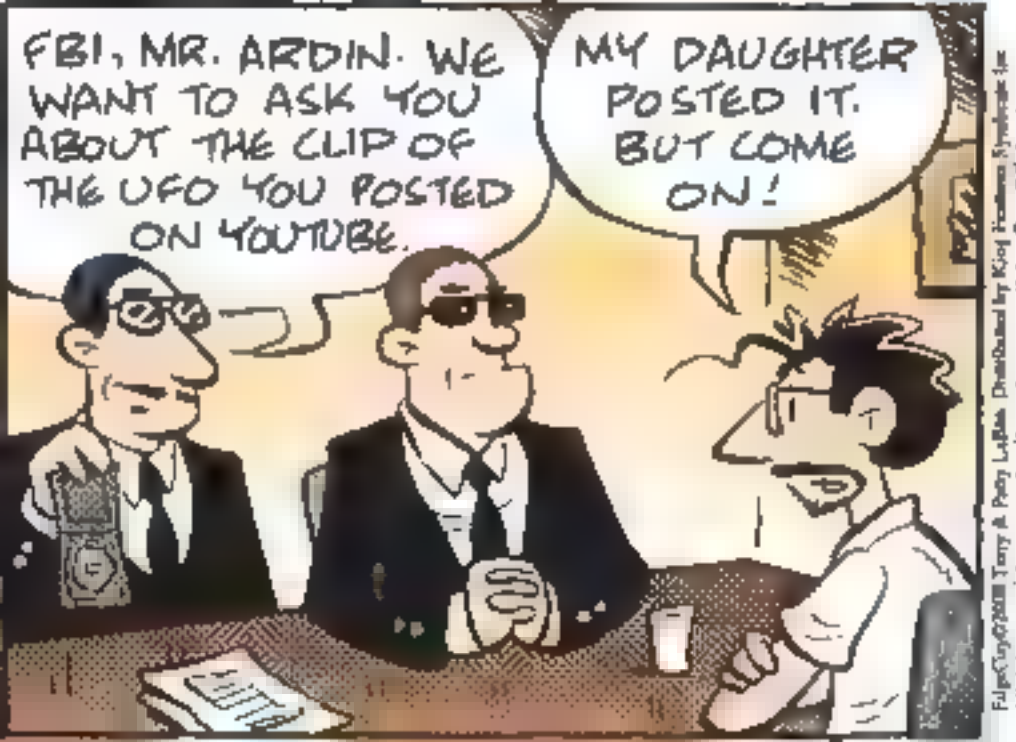
OF COURSE, HE WILL NEED A SERIOUS CLEANUP!

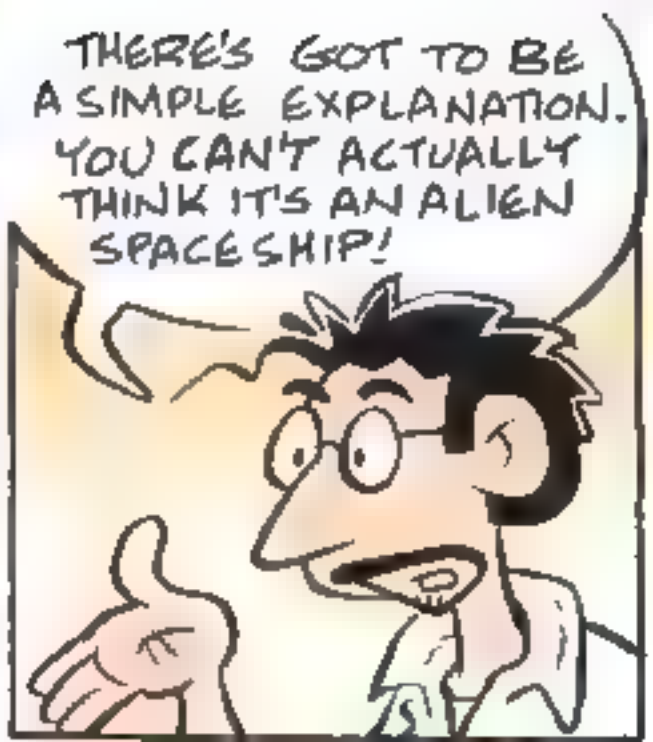
COLIN! WHICH ONE ARE YOU?

BUNK 5

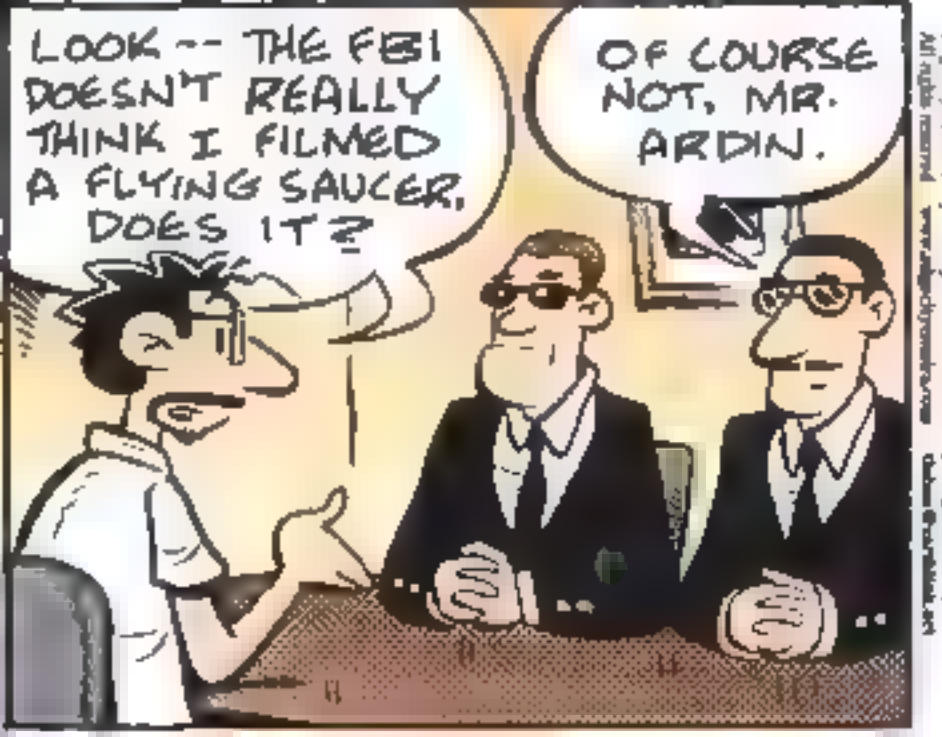
MAN... IF YOU WANT TO HEAR FROM WEIRDOS, POST A VIDEO OF A SUPPOSED UFO ON YOUTUBE.
MY MAILBOX IS OVERFLOWING WITH DUBIOUS TESTMONIALS, STRANGE VIDEOS AND SPURIOUS JUNK.
AND IT WASN'T BEFORE?
A FEW NIGERIAN INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES ARE NOTHING COMPARED TO THIS.

STILL HEARING FROM UFO FANATICS?
LESS. THE EXCITEMENT OVER THE VIDEO SEEMS TO HAVE DIED DOWN.
IT WAS SAD SEEING PEOPLE GET SO EXCITED ABOUT A FUZZY CLIP OF SOME LIGHTS IN THE SKY.
THERE'S A LOT OF GULLIBLE FOOLS OUT THERE.
REALLY! GET A LIFE, Y'KNOW?
LEN, SOME PEOPLE TO SEE YOU.
MR. ARDIN? FBI.
!


FBI, MR. ARDIN. WE WANT TO ASK YOU ABOUT THE CLIP OF THE UFO YOU POSTED ON YOUTUBE.
MY DAUGHTER POSTED IT. BUT COME ON!


THERE'S GOT TO BE A SIMPLE EXPLANATION. YOU CAN'T ACTUALLY THINK IT'S AN ALIEN SPACESHIP!

ER... CAN YOU?
WE'LL ASK THE QUESTIONS IF YOU DON'T MIND.
8.20



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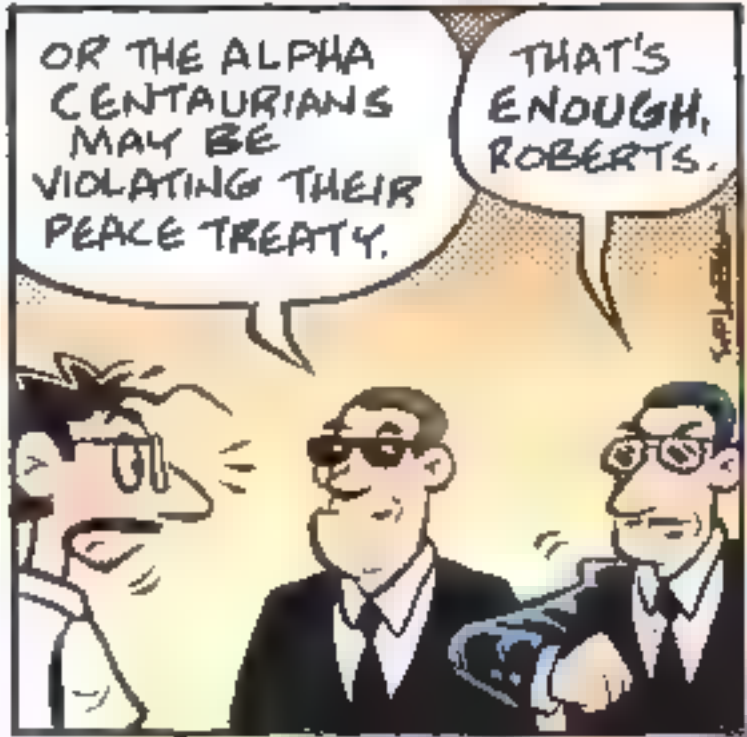

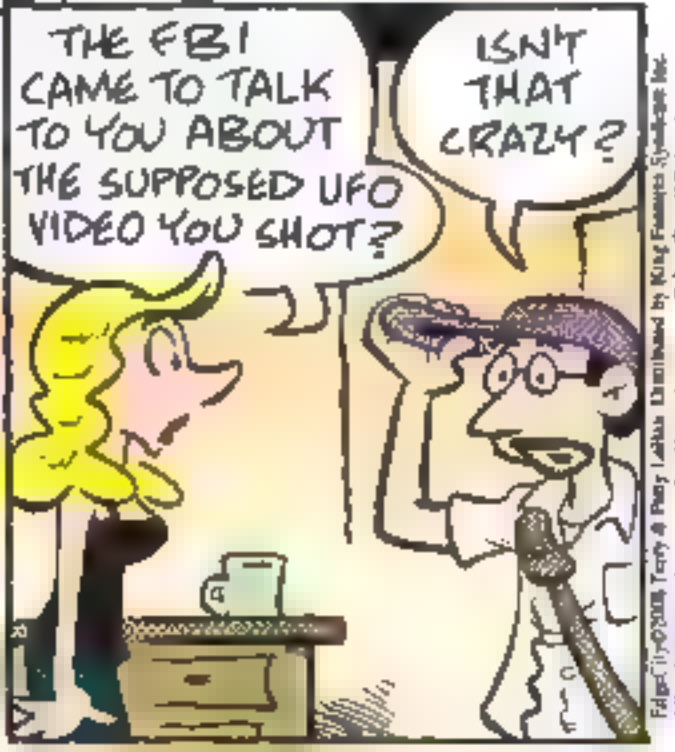

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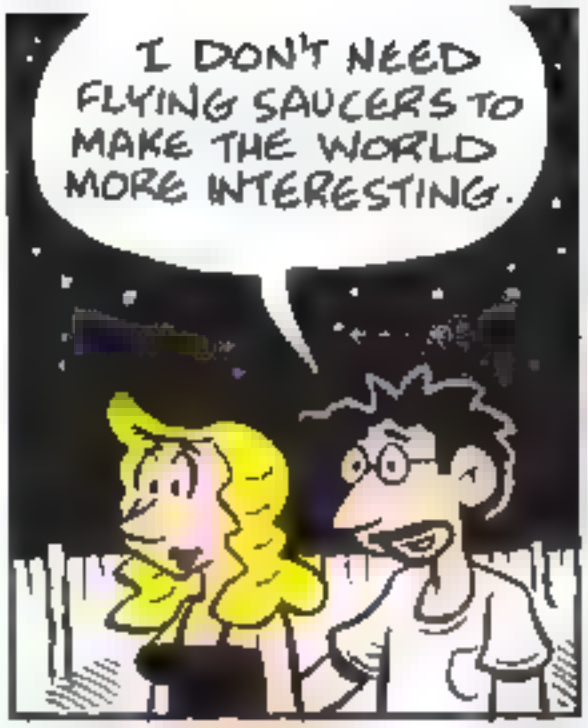

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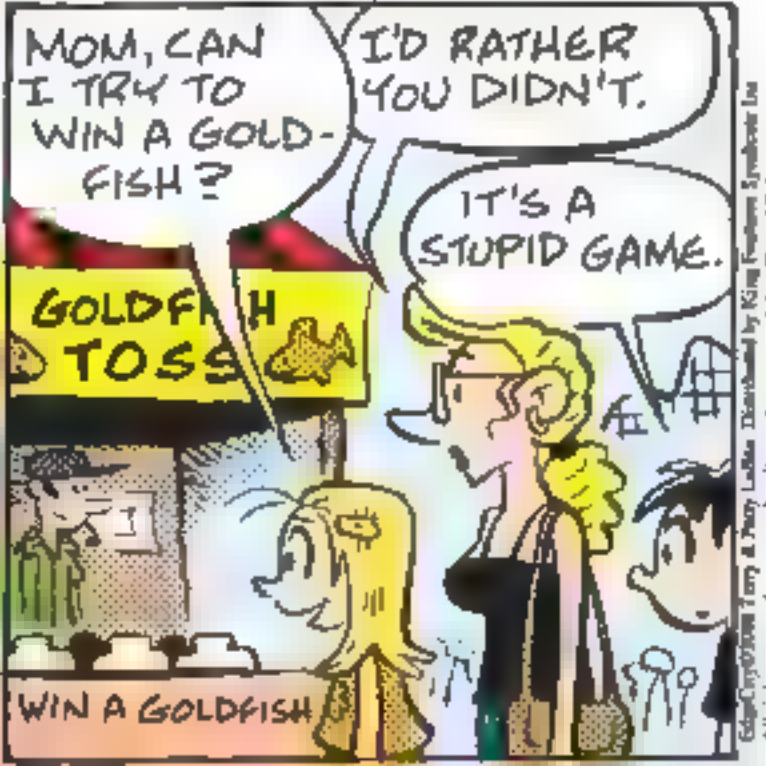
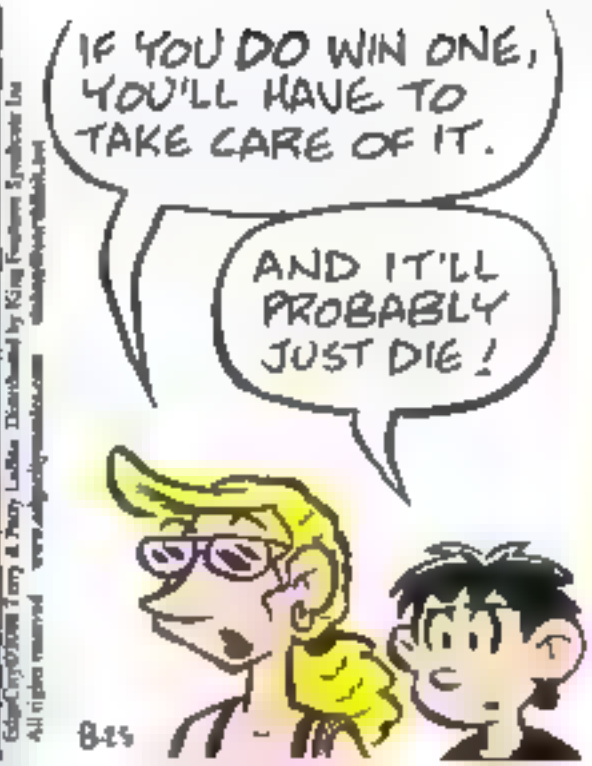
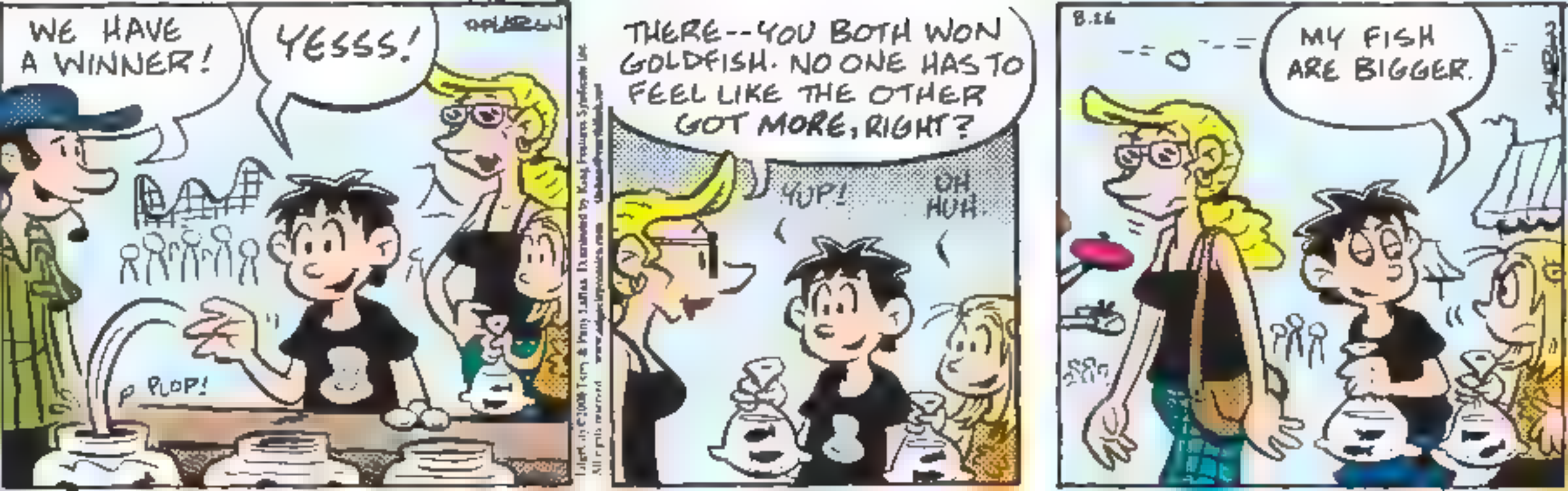
I ALWAYS HAVE TROUBLE OPENING THIS PLASTIC CLAMSHELL PACKAGING.
LET ME TRY.
PULL!
GNAW!
CUT! BEND!
STOMP! STOMP!
IS THERE A PROBLEM WITH THE PRODUCT?
WE WOULDN'T KNOW.
Customer Servi

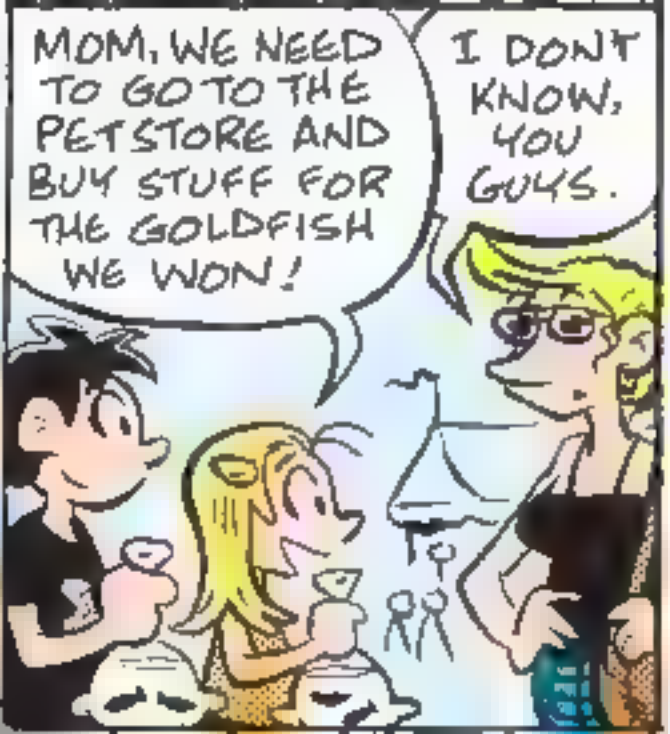

MOM, CAN I TRY TO WIN A GOLD-FISH?
I'D RATHER YOU DIDN'T.
IT'S A STUPID GAME.
GOLDFISH TOSS
WIN A GOLDFISH


IF YOU DO WIN ONE, YOU'LL HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF IT.
AND IT'LL PROBABLY JUST DIE!

PLEEASE!
SIGH!! IF YOU REALLY WANT TO.
YOU WON'T WIN ANY-WAY.

WE HAVE A WINNER!
CAN I TRY?


WE HAVE A WINNER!
YESSS!
PLOP!
THERE--YOU BOTH WON GOLDFISH. NO ONE HAS TO FEEL LIKE THE OTHER GOT MORE, RIGHT?
YUP!
UH HUH.
8.26
MY FISH ARE BIGGER.



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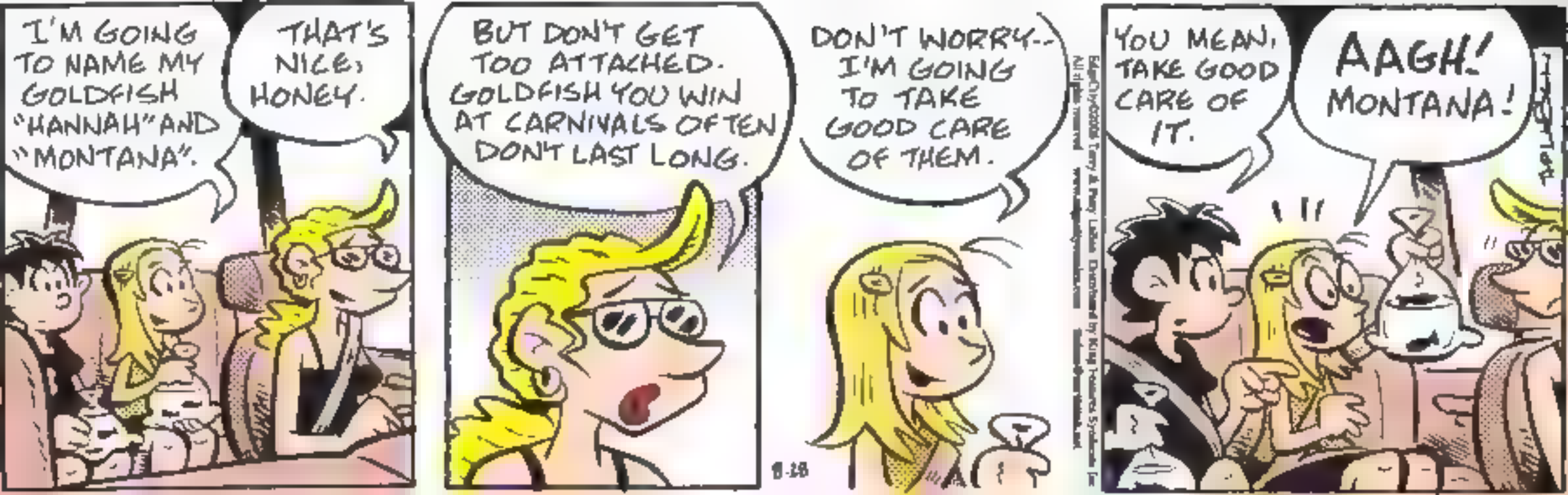
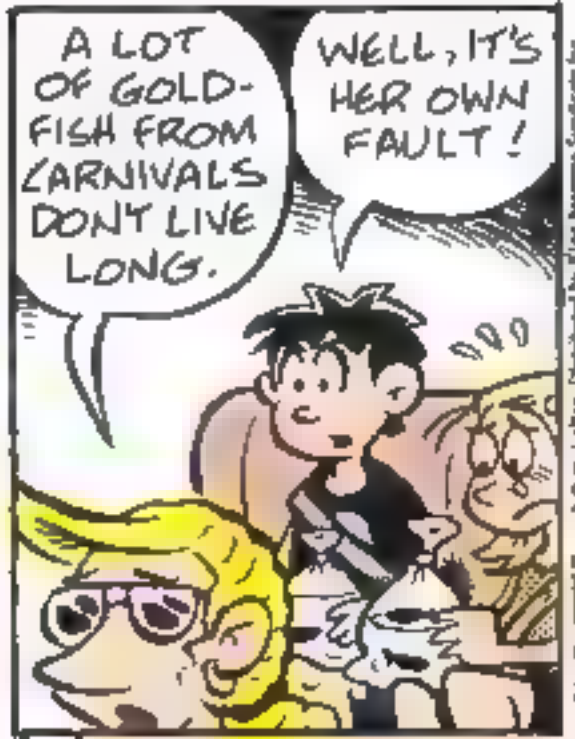

I'M GOING TO NAME MY GOLDFISH "HANNAH" AND "MONTANA".
THAT'S NICE, HONEY.
BUT DON'T GET TOO ATTACHED. GOLDFISH YOU WIN AT CARNIVALS OFTEN DON'T LAST LONG.
DON'T WORRY-- I'M GOING TO TAKE GOOD CARE OF THEM.
YOU MEAN, TAKE GOOD CARE OF IT.
AAGH! MONTANA!



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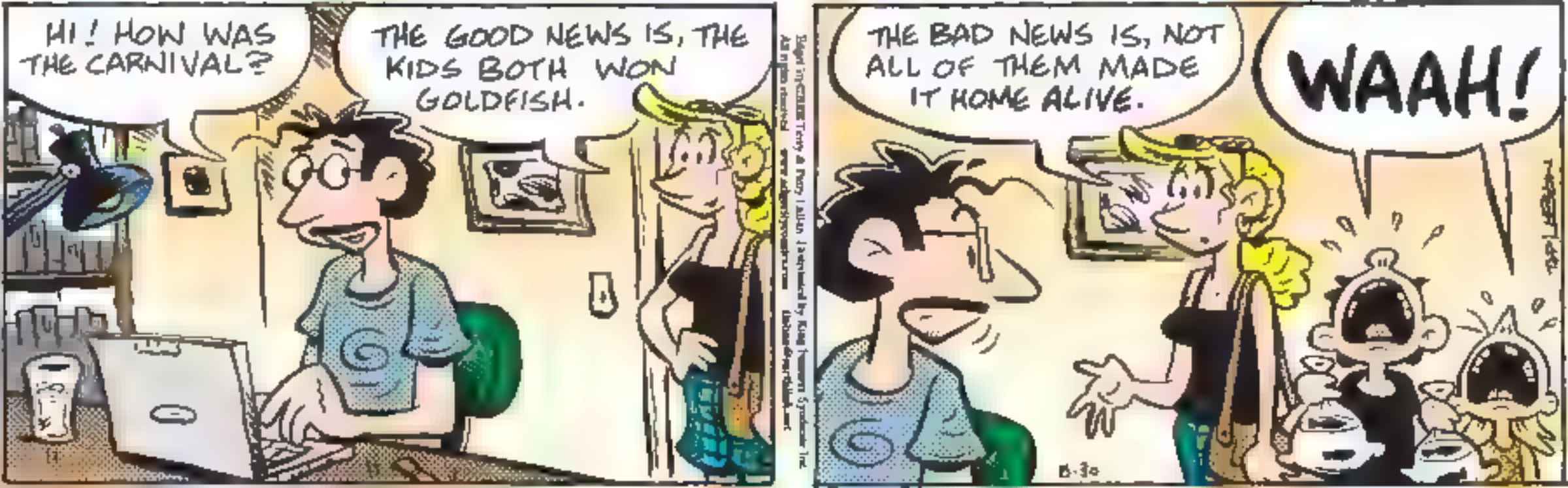
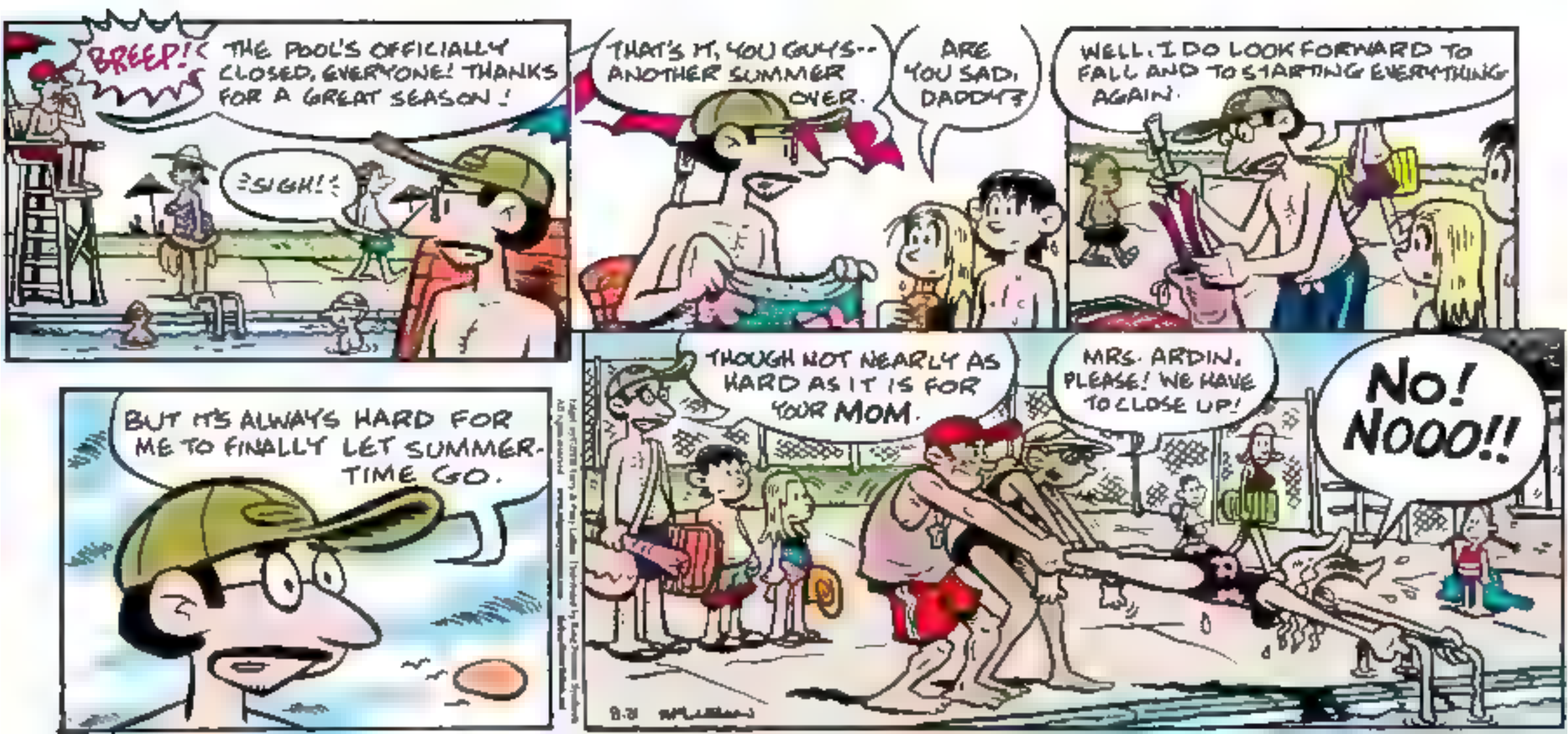
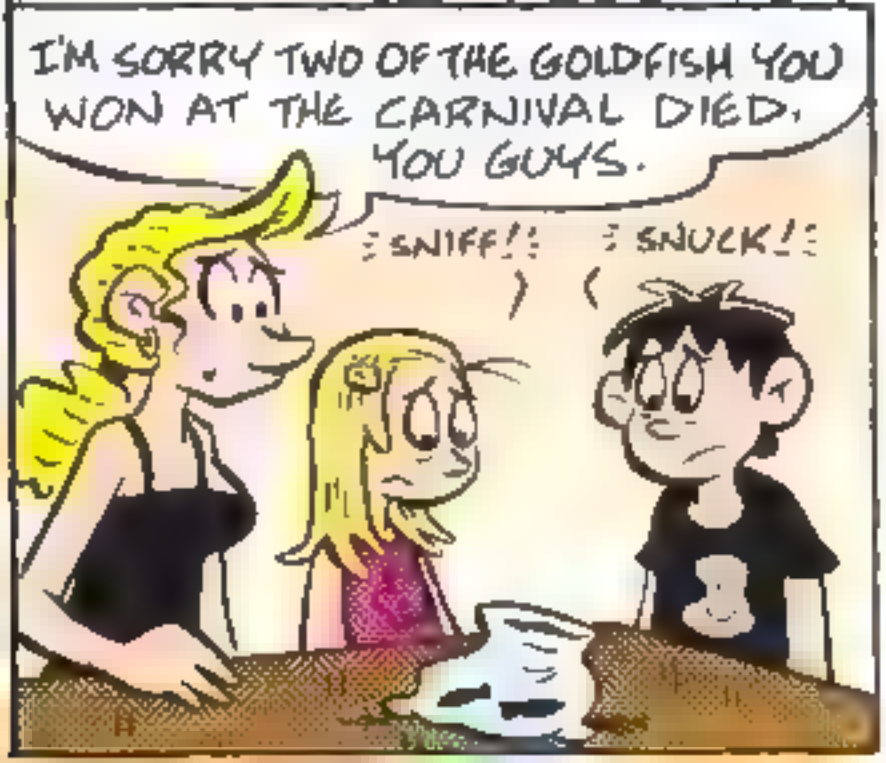
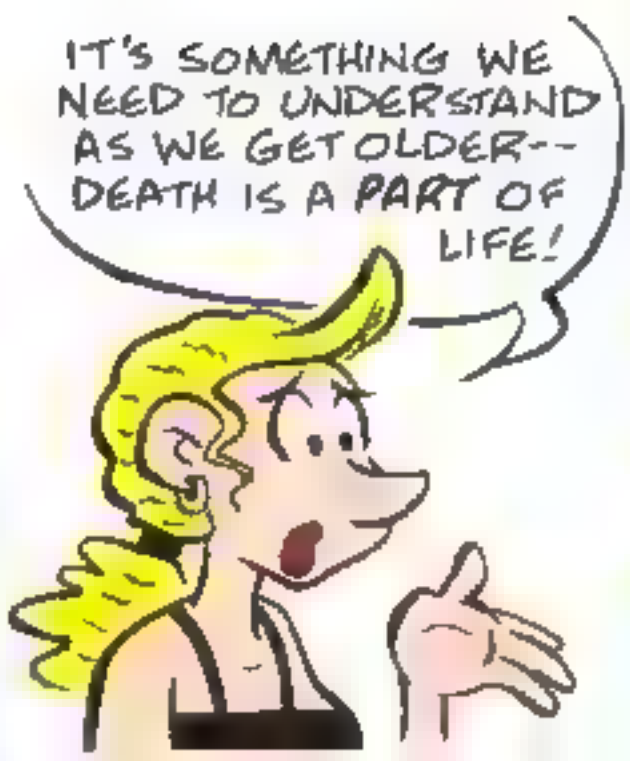
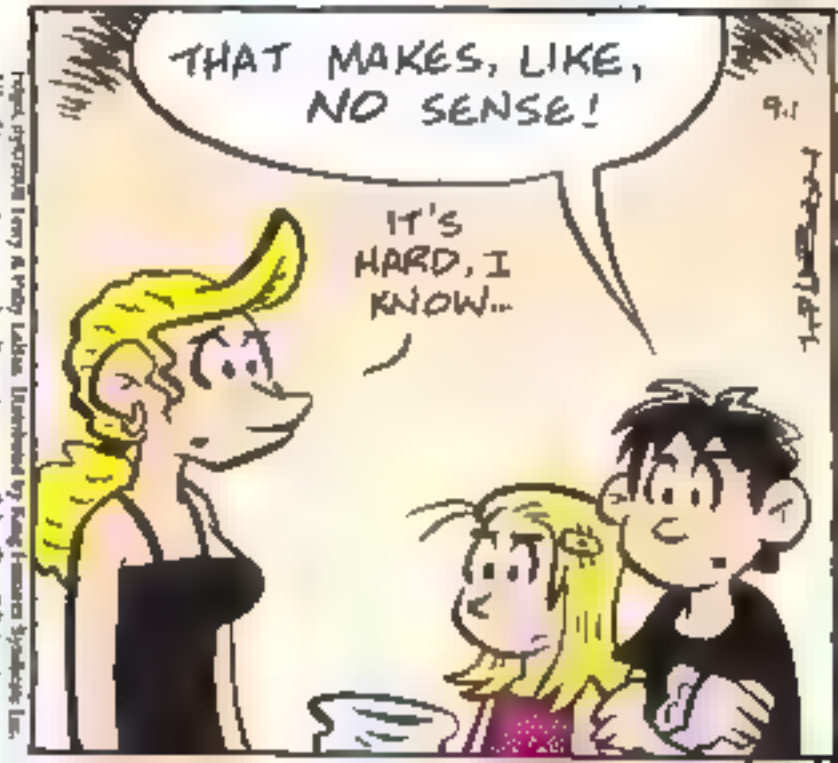
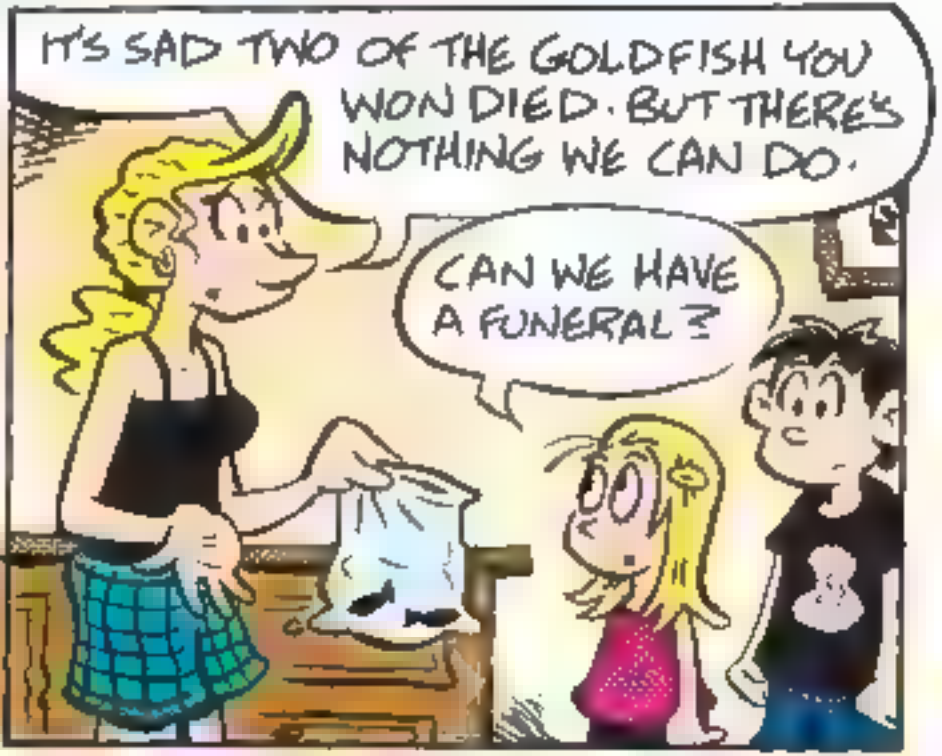

HI! HOW WAS THE CARNIVAL?
THE GOOD NEWS IS, THE KIDS BOTH WON GOLDFISH.
THE BAD NEWS IS, NOT ALL OF THEM MADE IT HOME ALIVE.
WAAH!


BREEP!
THE POOL'S OFFICIALLY CLOSED, EVERYONE! THANKS FOR A GREAT SEASON!
SIGH!
THAT'S IT, YOU GUYS-- ANOTHER SUMMER OVER.
ARE YOU SAD, DADDY?
WELL, I DO LOOK FORWARD TO FALL AND TO STARTING EVERYTHING AGAIN.
BUT IT'S ALWAYS HARD FOR ME TO FINALLY LET SUMMER-TIME GO.
THOUGH NOT NEARLY AS HARD AS IT IS FOR YOUR MOM.
MRS. ARDIN, PLEASE! WE HAVE TO CLOSE UP!
No! Nooo!!


I'M SORRY TWO OF THE GOLDFISH YOU WON AT THE CARNIVAL DIED, YOU GUYS.
SNIFF!!
SNUCK!!

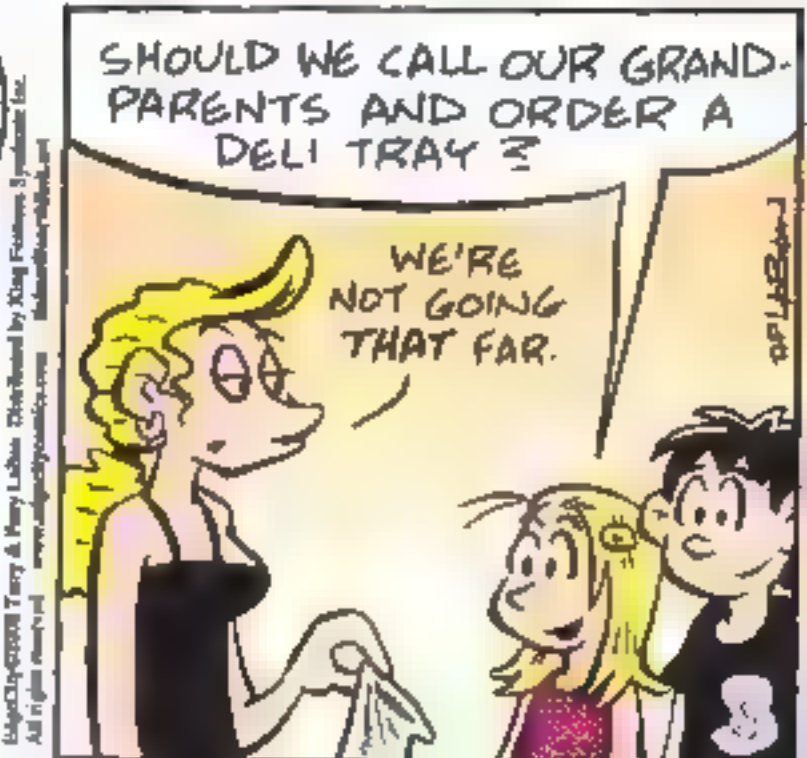

IT'S SOMETHING WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND AS WE GET OLDER-- DEATH IS A PART OF LIFE!

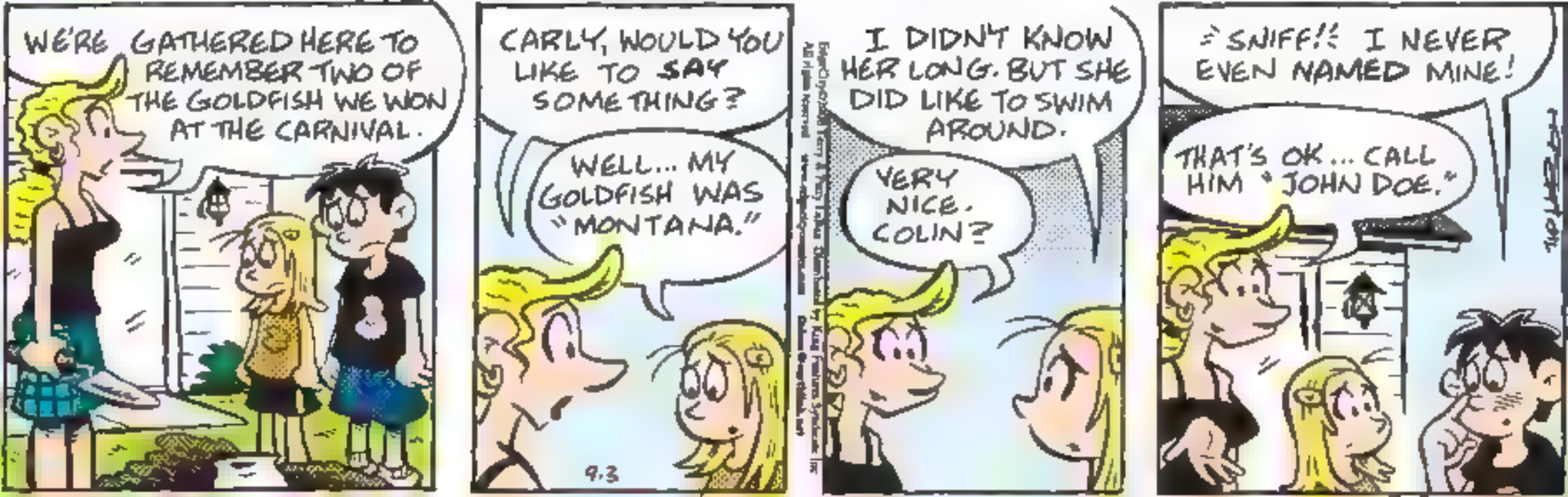

THAT MAKES, LIKE, NO SENSE!
IT'S HARD, I KNOW...

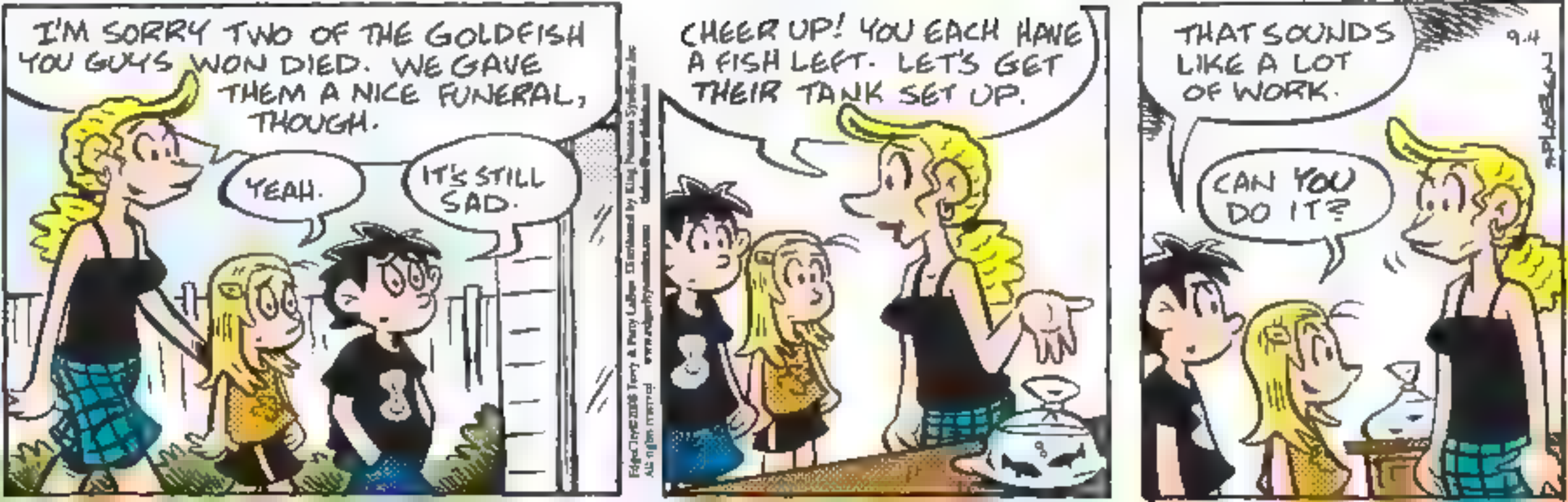

IT'S SAD TWO OF THE GOLDFISH YOU WON DIED. BUT THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO.
CAN WE HAVE A FUNERAL?

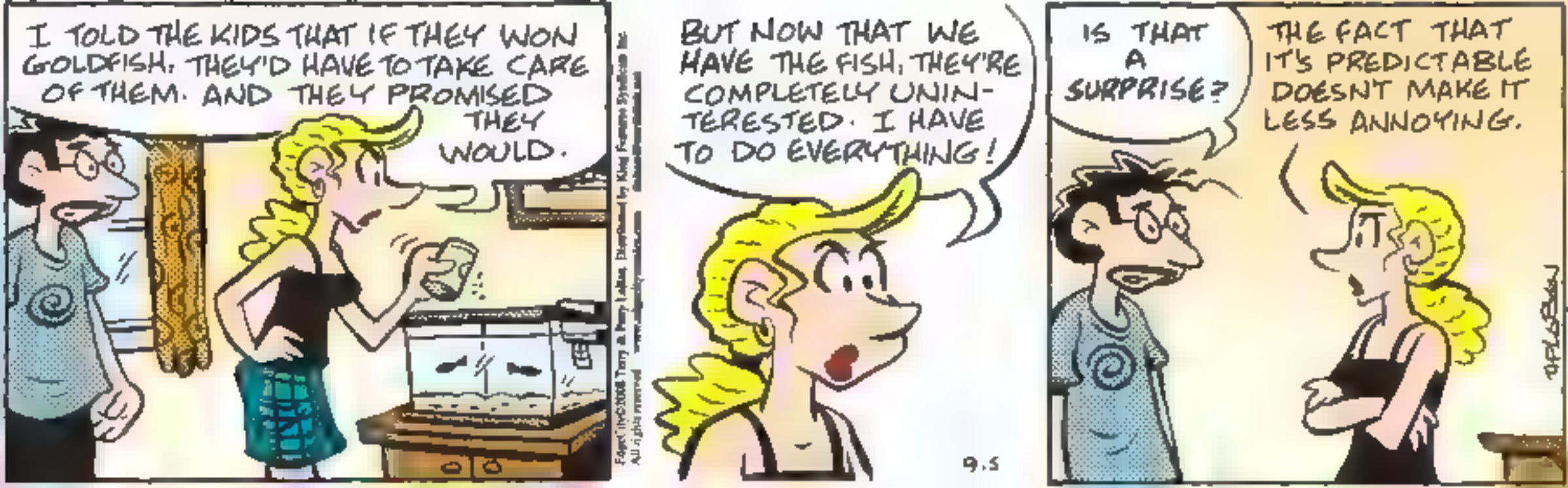
THAT'S A GREAT IDEA, CARLY. WE'LL BURY THEM OUT BACK AND YOU CAN EACH SAY A LITTLE SOMETHING.

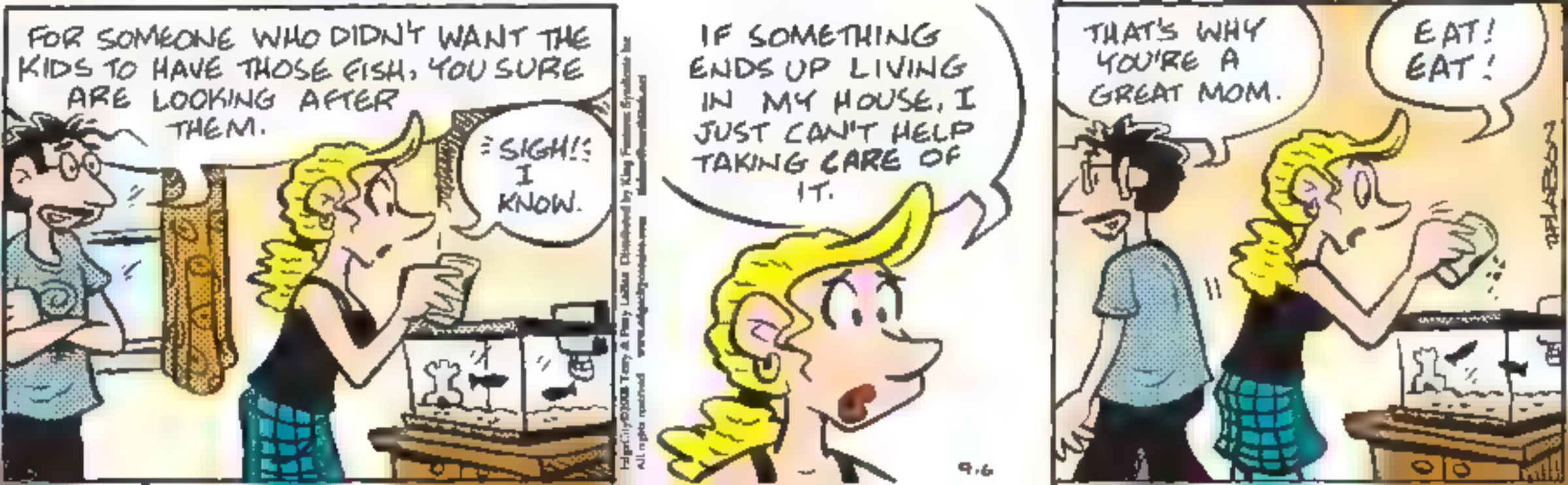
9.2

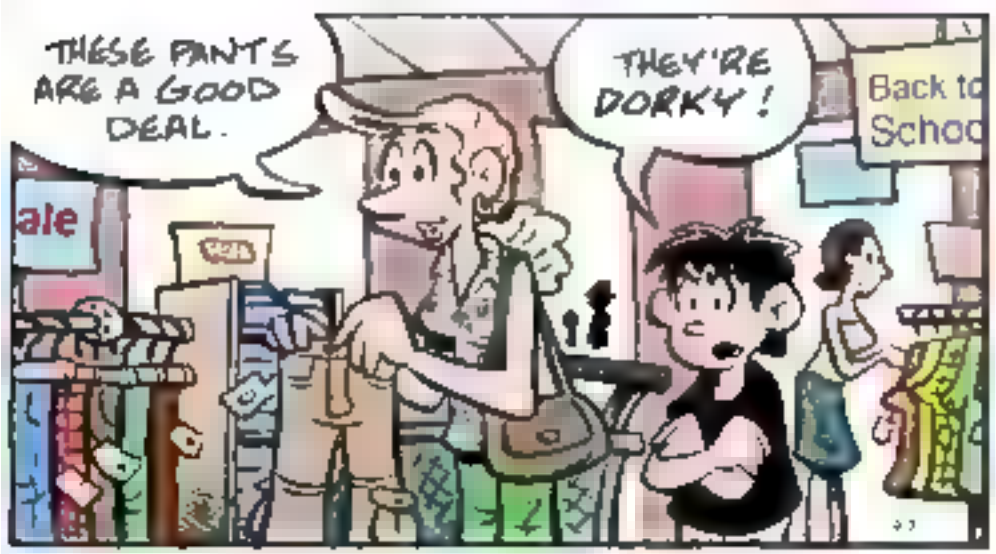

SHOULD WE CALL OUR GRANDPARENTS AND ORDER A DELI TRAY?
WE'RE NOT GOING THAT FAR.

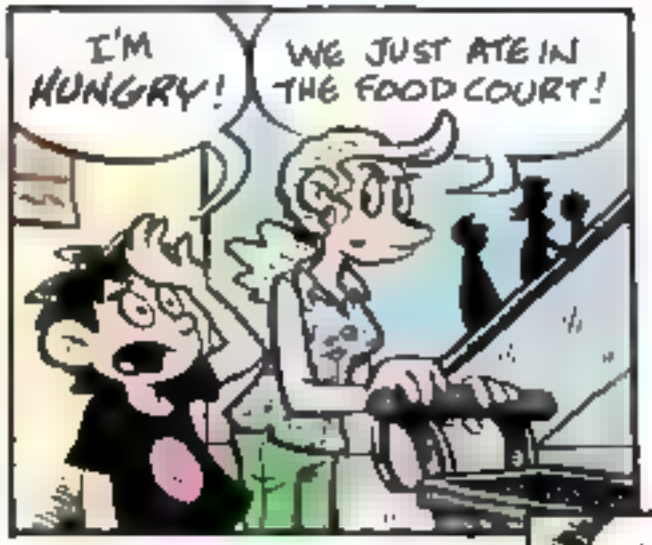

WE'RE GATHERED HERE TO REMEMBER TWO OF THE GOLDFISH WE WON AT THE CARNIVAL.
CARLY, WOULD YOU LIKE TO SAY SOMETHING?
WELL... MY GOLDFISH WAS "MONTANA."
9.3
I DIDN'T KNOW HER LONG. BUT SHE DID LIKE TO SWIM AROUND.
VERY NICE. COLIN?
SNIFF!! I NEVER EVEN NAMED MINE!
THAT'S OK... CALL HIM "JOHN DOE."


I'M SORRY TWO OF THE GOLDFISH YOU GUYS WON DIED. WE GAVE THEM A NICE FUNERAL, THOUGH.
YEAH.
IT'S STILL SAD.
CHEER UP! YOU EACH HAVE A FISH LEFT. LET'S GET THEIR TANK SET UP.
THAT SOUNDS LIKE A LOT OF WORK.
CAN YOU DO IT?
9-4


I TOLD THE KIDS THAT IF THEY WON GOLDFISH, THEY'D HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF THEM. AND THEY PROMISED THEY WOULD.
BUT NOW THAT WE HAVE THE FISH, THEY'RE COMPLETELY UNINTERESTED. I HAVE TO DO EVERYTHING!
9.5
IS THAT A SURPRISE?
THE FACT THAT IT'S PREDICTABLE DOESN'T MAKE IT LESS ANNOYING.


FOR SOMEONE WHO DIDN'T WANT THE KIDS TO HAVE THOSE FISH, YOU SURE ARE LOOKING AFTER THEM.
SIGH!! I KNOW.
IF SOMETHING ENDS UP LIVING IN MY HOUSE, I JUST CAN'T HELP TAKING CARE OF IT.
THAT'S WHY YOU'RE A GREAT MOM.
EAT! EAT!


THESE PANTS ARE A GOOD DEAL.
THEY'RE DORKY!
Back to Schoo
ale

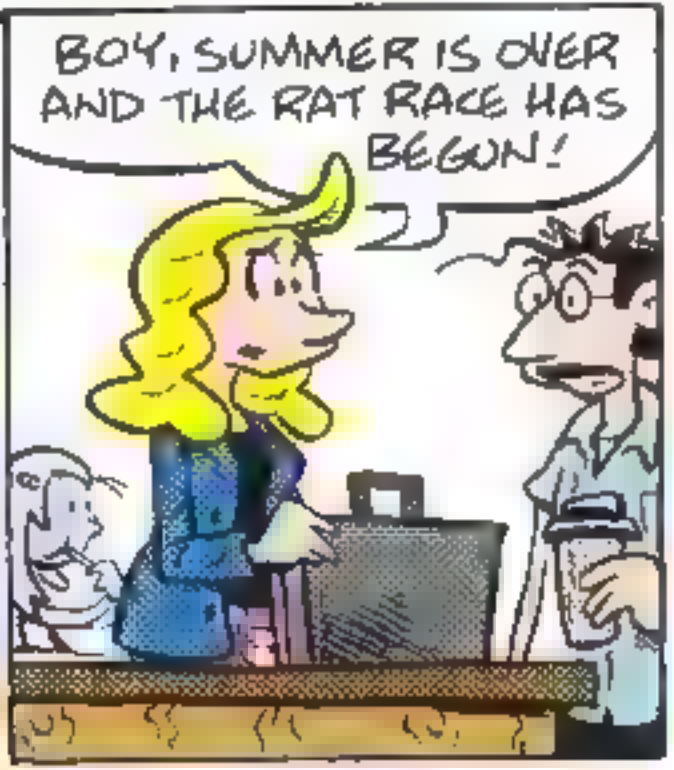

I'M HUNGRY!
WE JUST ATE IN THE FOOD COURT!

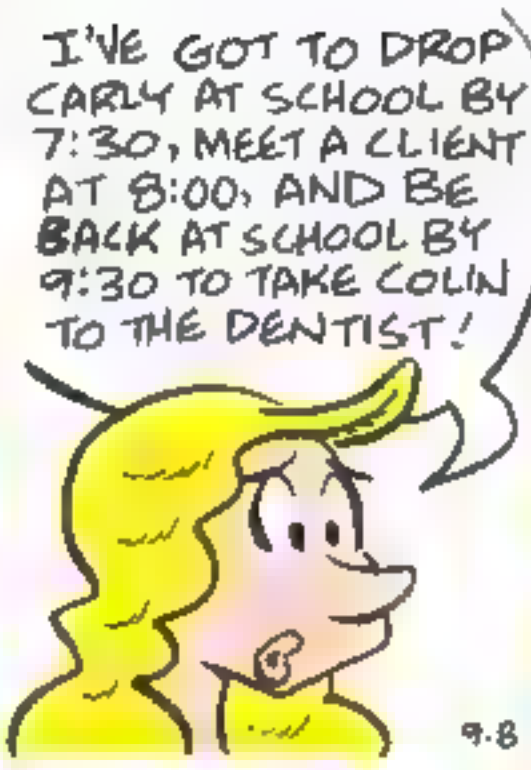
THERE YOU ARE! I TOLD YOU TO STAY WITH ME!

JUST TRY ON A FEW THINGS!
NO!

I'VE HAD IT! I CAN'T GET YOU NEW SCHOOL CLOTHES IF YOU'RE GOING TO BE TOTALLY UNCOOPERATIVE!
FINE! I HATE SHOPPING!

I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO WEAR.

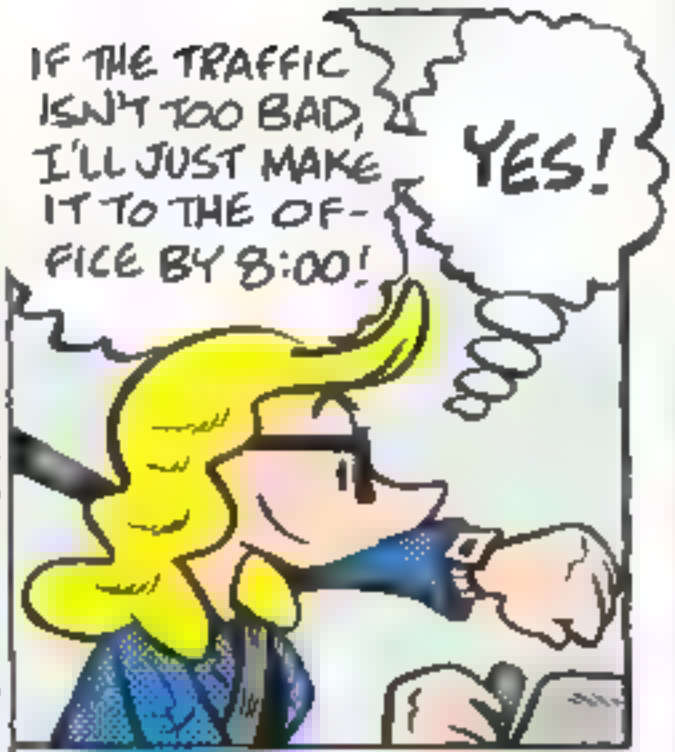

BOY, SUMMER IS OVER AND THE RAT RACE HAS BEGUN!

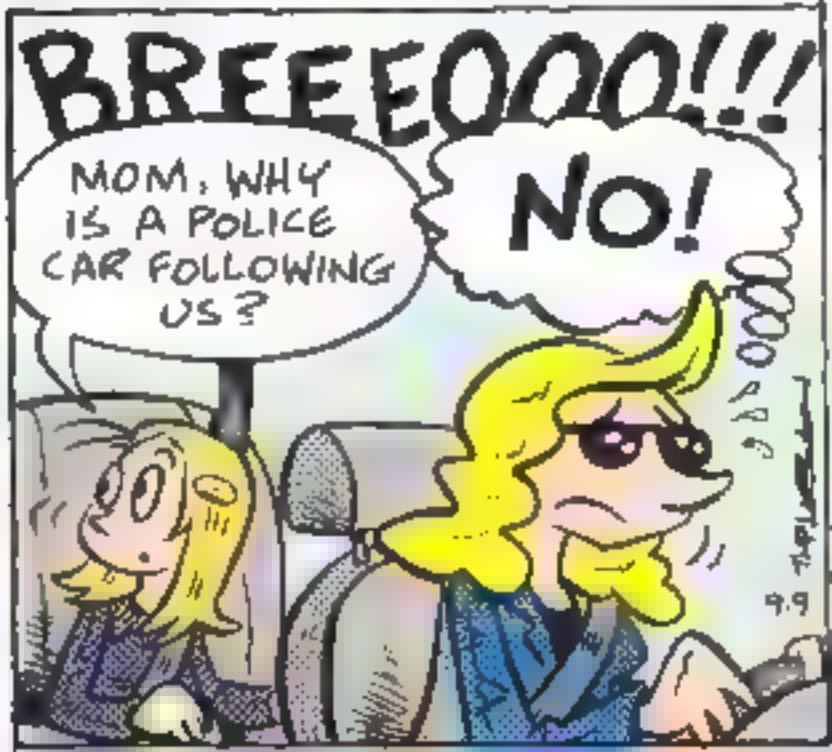

I'VE GOT TO DROP CARLY AT SCHOOL BY 7:30, MEET A CLIENT AT 8:00, AND BE BACK AT SCHOOL BY 9:30 TO TAKE COLIN TO THE DENTIST!
9-8

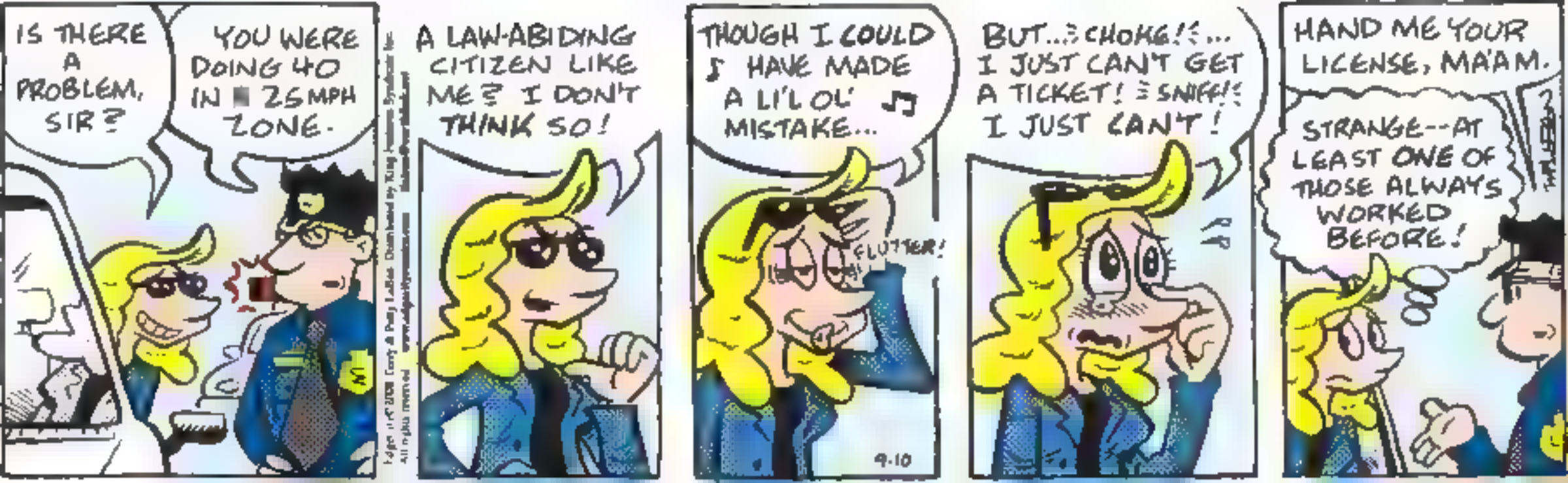
DOESN'T IT SEEM LIKE JUST YESTERDAY WE WERE RELAXING BY THE POOL?

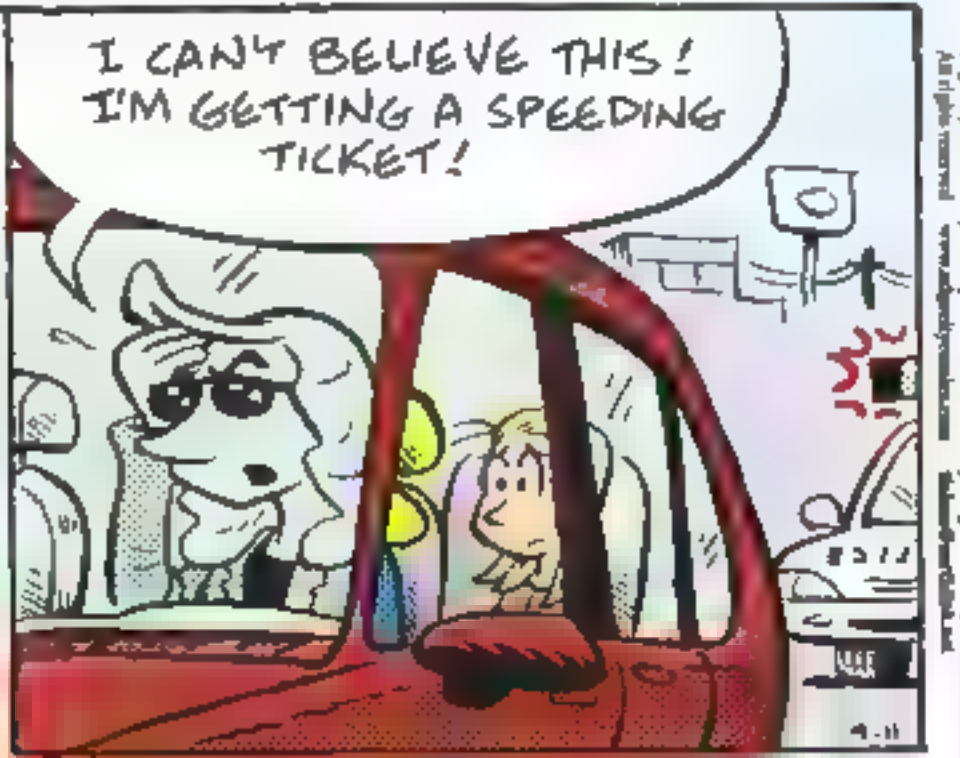
NO -- NOT REALLY.
MOM, I FORGOT TO TELL YOU -- I HAVE A PROJECT DUE TOMORROW!

I'M DOING OK-- IT'S ONLY 7:25!


IF THE TRAFFIC ISN'T TOO BAD, I'LL JUST MAKE IT TO THE OF-FICE BY 8:00!
YES!


BREEEOOO!!!
MOM, WHY IS A POLICE CAR FOLLOWING US?
NO!


IS THERE A PROBLEM, SIR?
YOU WERE DOING 40 IN A 25MPH ZONE.
A LAW-ABIDING CITIZEN LIKE ME? I DON'T THINK SO!
THOUGH I COULD ♪ HAVE MADE A LI'L OL' ♪ MISTAKE...
FLUTTER!
9-10
BUT...CHOKE!... I JUST CAN'T GET A TICKET! SNIFF! I JUST CAN'T!
HAND ME YOUR LICENSE, MA'AM.
STRANGE--AT LEAST ONE OF THOSE ALWAYS WORKED BEFORE!



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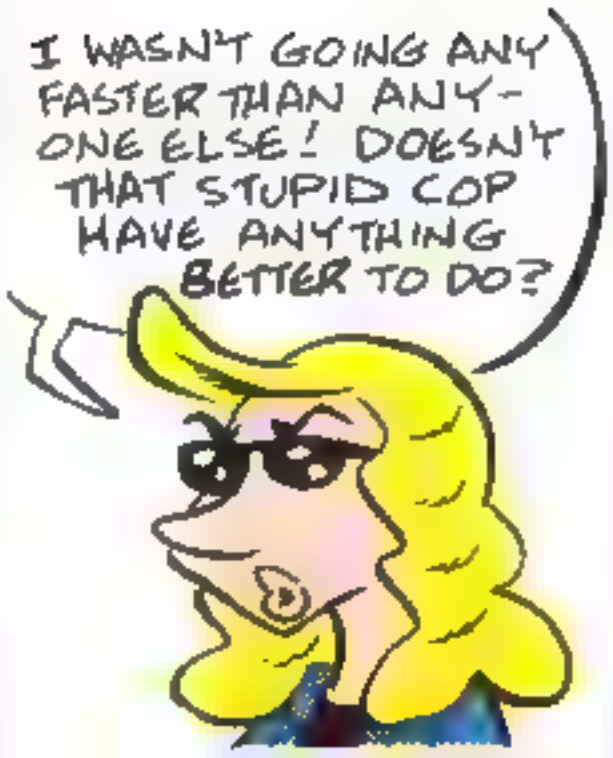

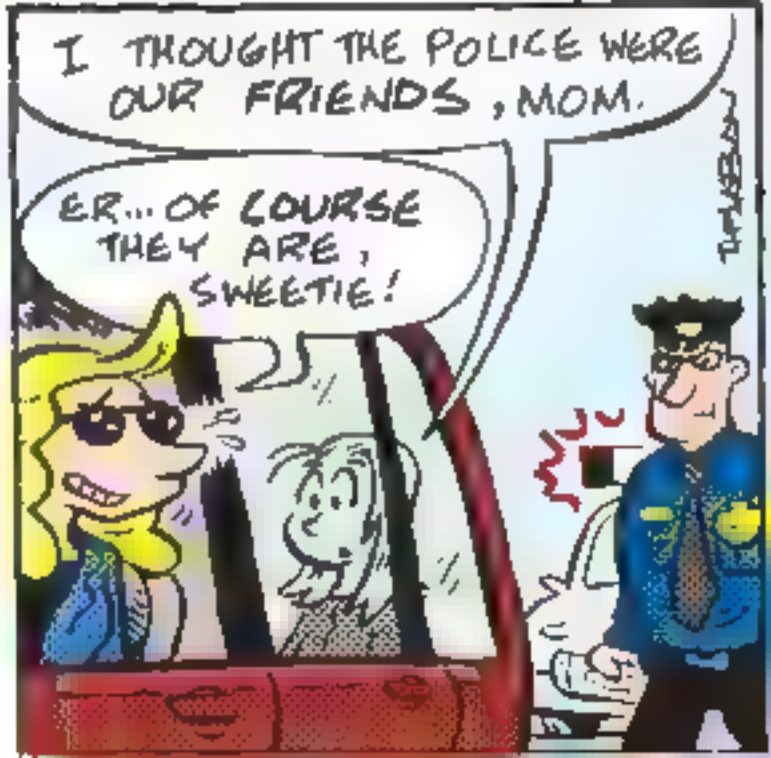

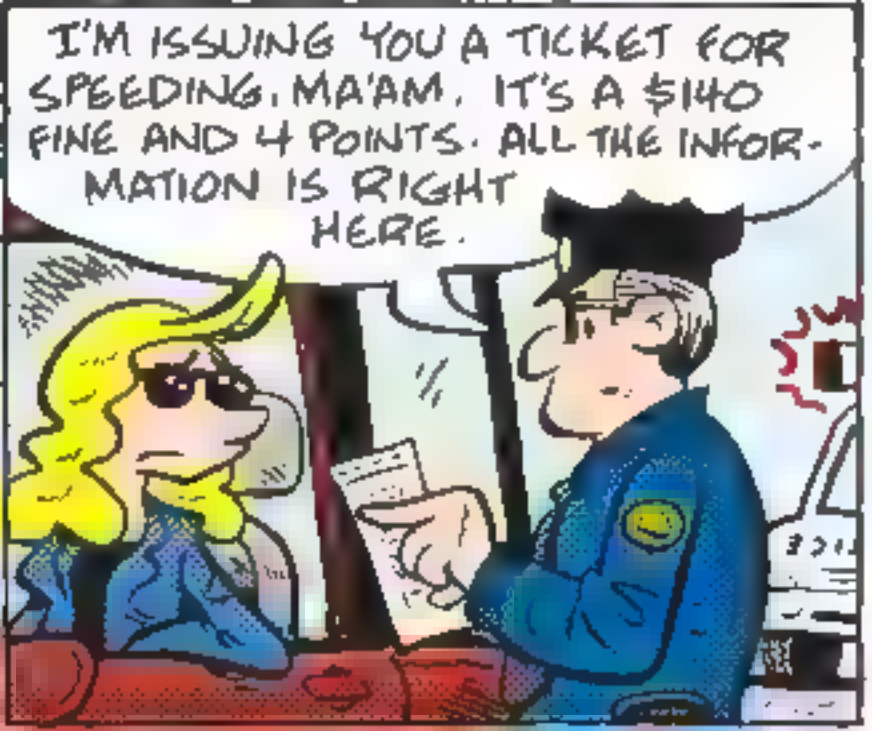

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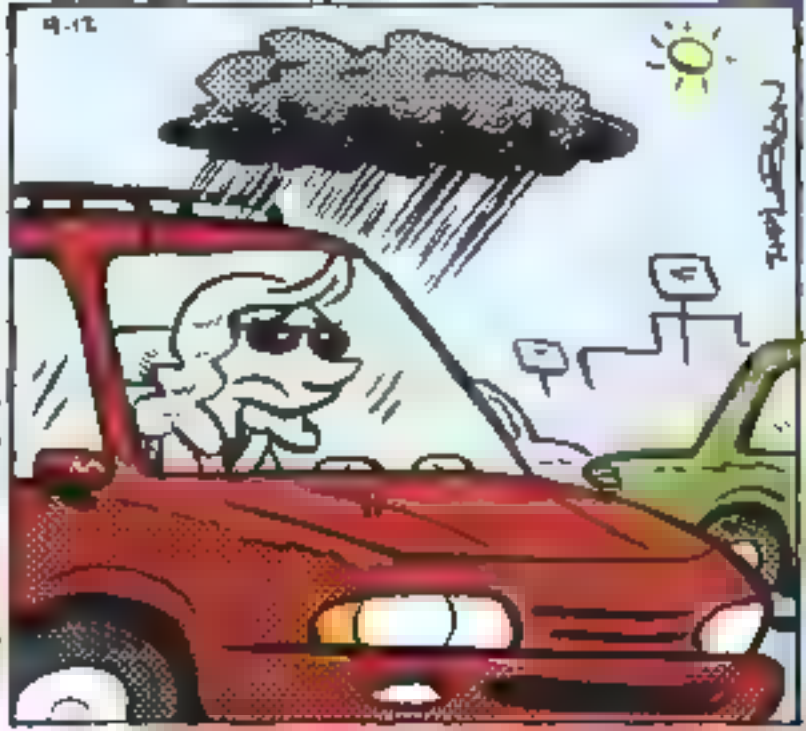
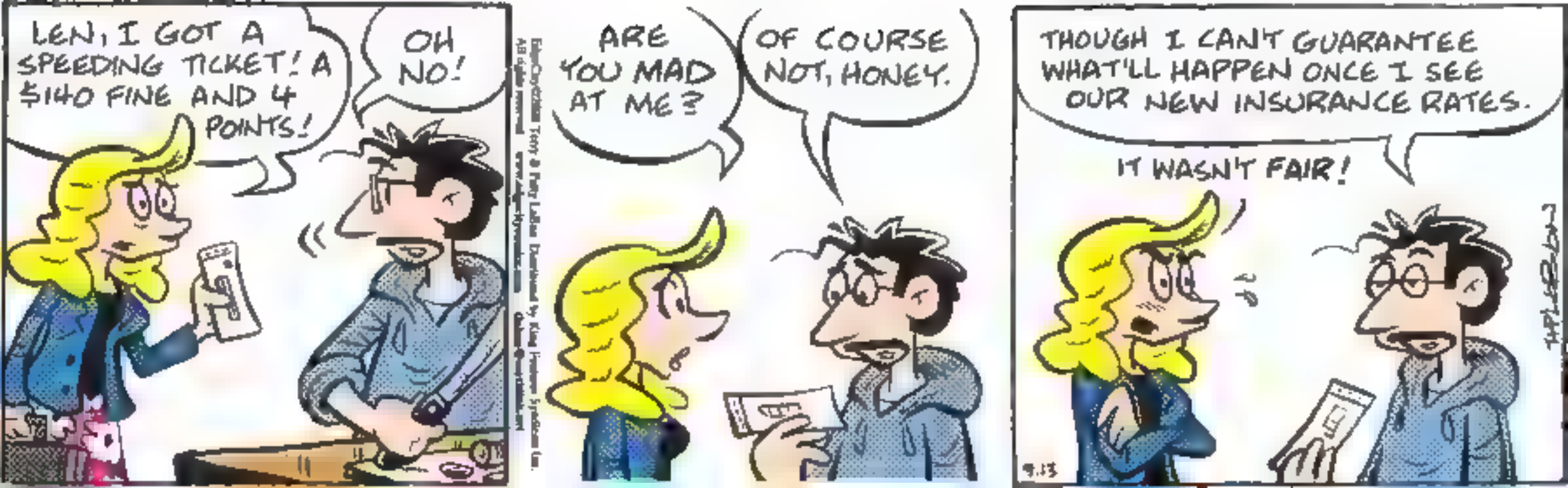
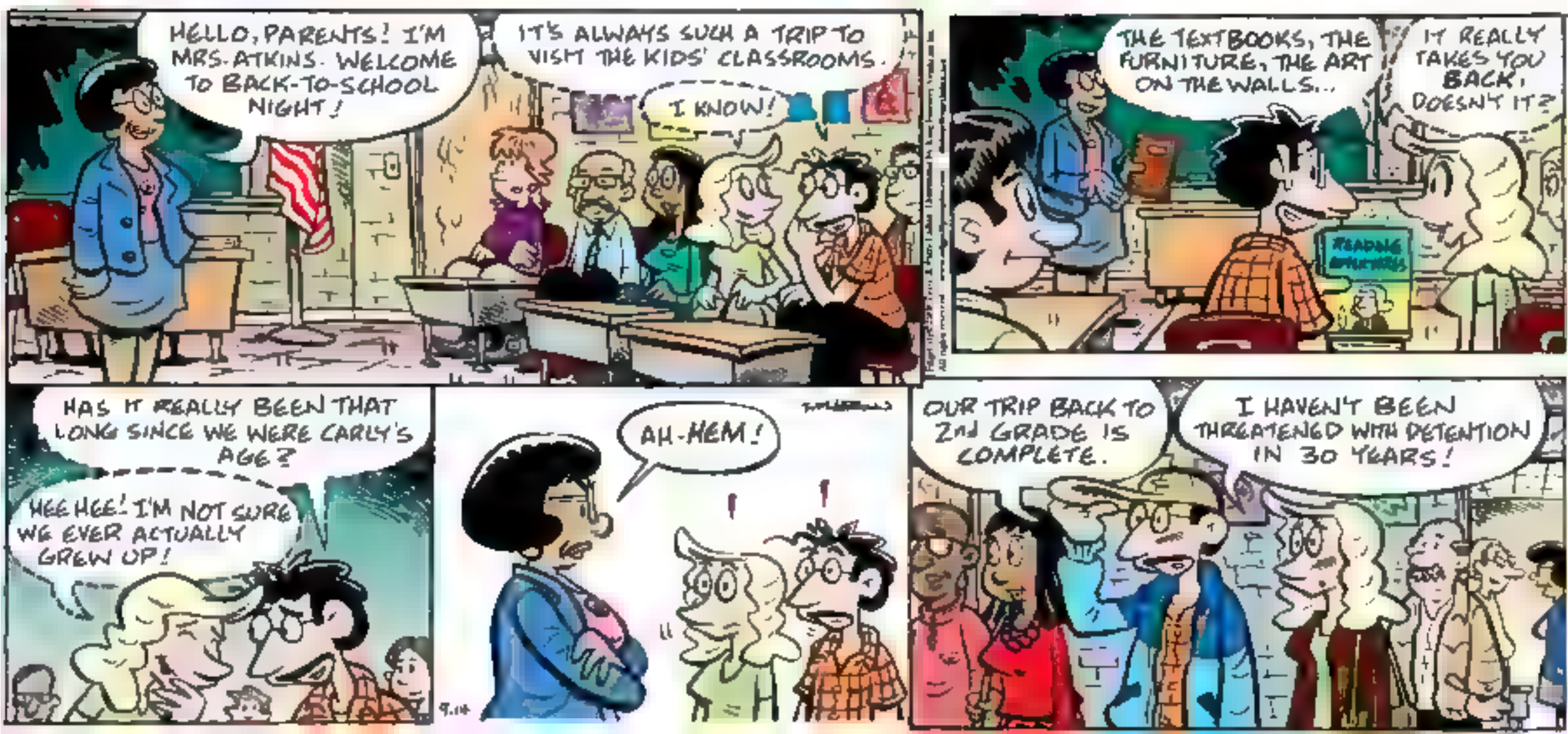
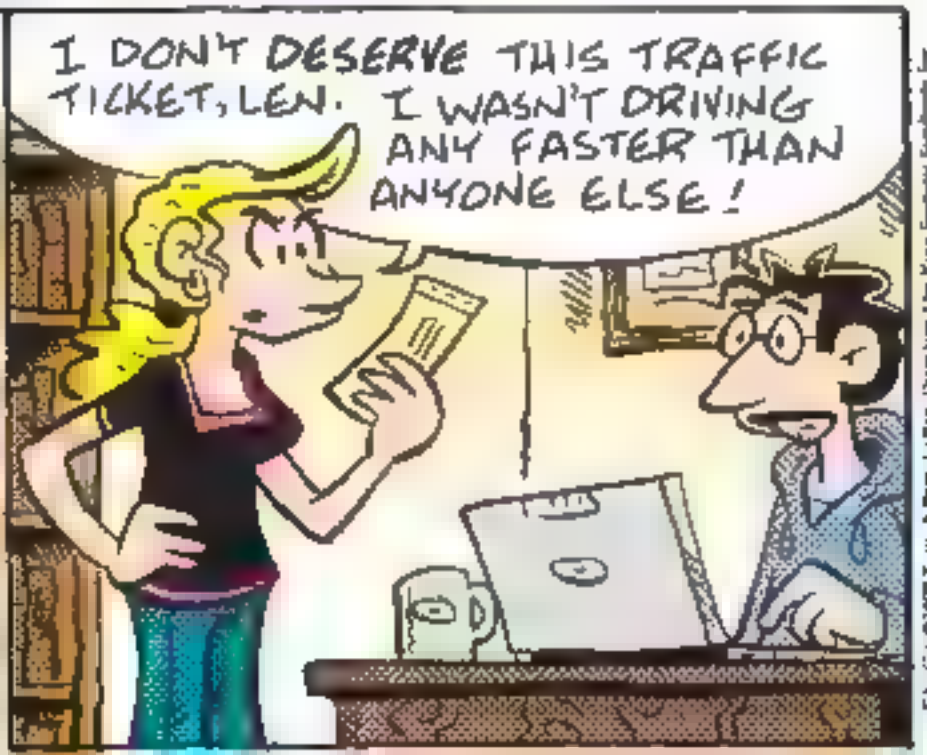
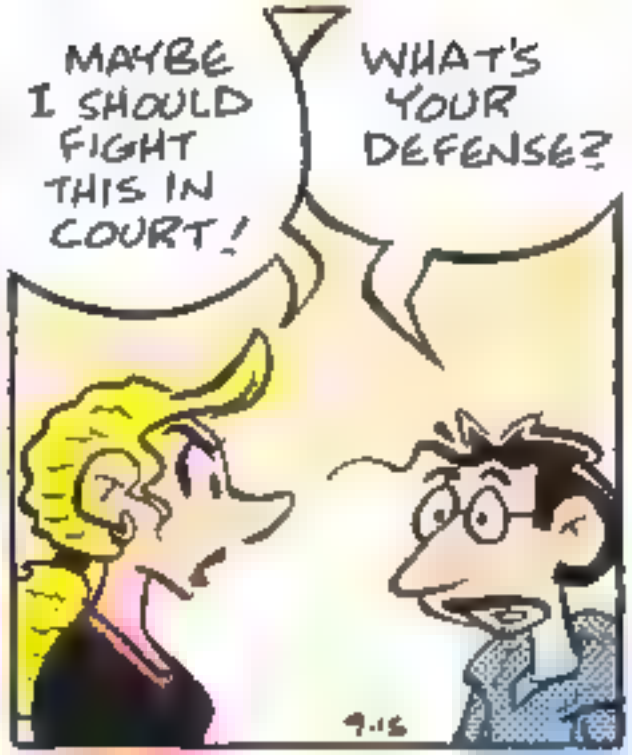
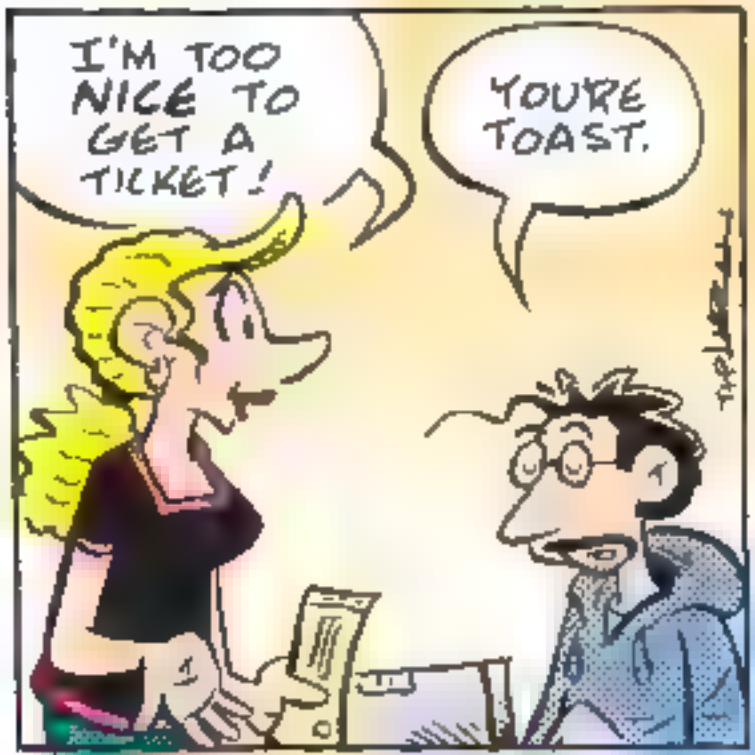


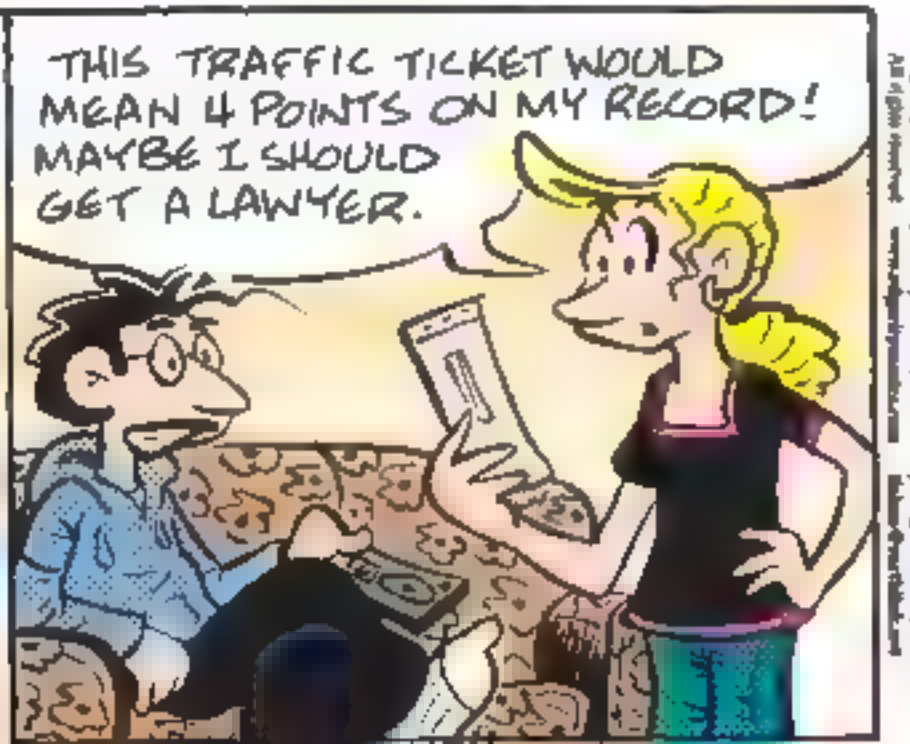

LEN, I GOT A SPEEDING TICKET! A $140 FINE AND 4 POINTS!
OH NO!
ARE YOU MAD AT ME?
OF COURSE NOT, HONEY.
THOUGH I CAN'T GUARANTEE WHAT'LL HAPPEN ONCE I SEE OUR NEW INSURANCE RATES.
IT WASN'T FAIR!

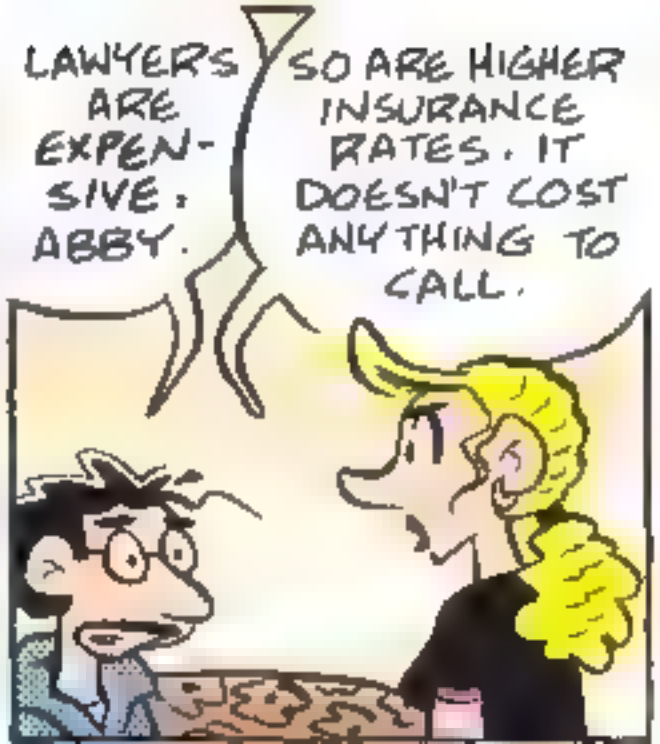

HELLO, PARENTS! I'M MRS. ATKINS. WELCOME TO BACK-TO-SCHOOL NIGHT!
IT'S ALWAYS SUCH A TRIP TO VISIT THE KIDS' CLASSROOMS.
I KNOW!
THE TEXTBOOKS, THE FURNITURE, THE ART ON THE WALLS...
READING
IT REALLY TAKES YOU BACK, DOESN'T IT?
HAS IT REALLY BEEN THAT LONG SINCE WE WERE CARLY'S AGE?
HEE HEE! I'M NOT SURE WE EVER ACTUALLY GREW UP!
AH-HEM!
OUR TRIP BACK TO 2nd GRADE IS COMPLETE.
I HAVEN'T BEEN THREATENED WITH DETENTION IN 30 YEARS!


I DON'T DESERVE THIS TRAFFIC TICKET, LEN. I WASN'T DRIVING ANY FASTER THAN ANYONE ELSE!

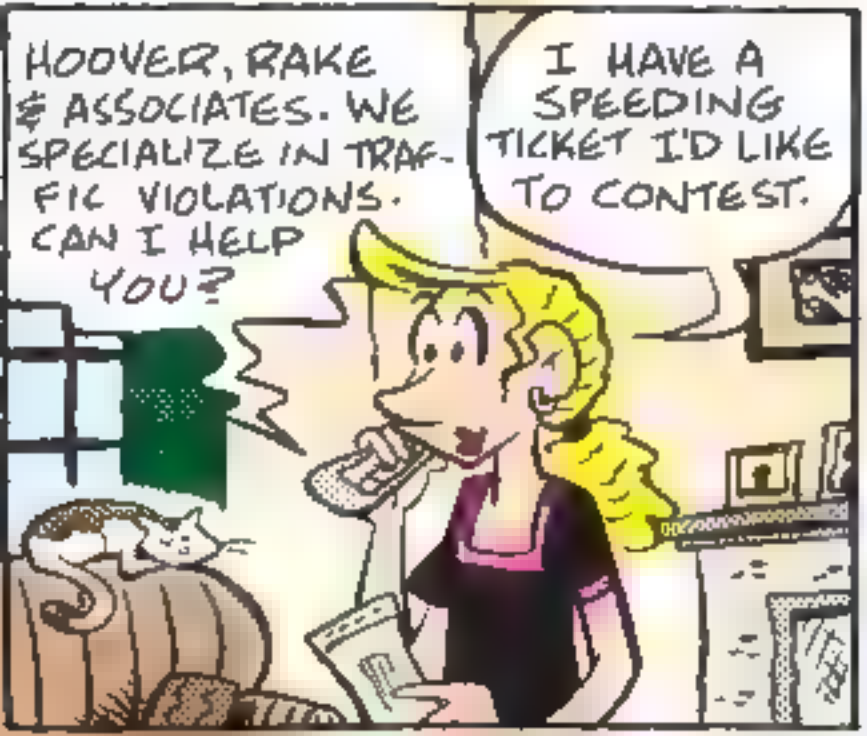

MAYBE I SHOULD FIGHT THIS IN COURT!
WHAT'S YOUR DEFENSE?


I'M TOO NICE TO GET A TICKET!
YOU'RE TOAST.


THIS TRAFFIC TICKET WOULD MEAN 4 POINTS ON MY RECORD! MAYBE I SHOULD GET A LAWYER.


LAWYERS ARE EXPENSIVE, ABBY.
SO ARE HIGHER INSURANCE RATES. IT DOESN'T COST ANYTHING TO CALL.

YOU'VE REACHED THE OFFICE OF HOOVER, RAKE & ASSOCIATES. IF YOU'RE RICH, PRESS "1"...
UH-OH.



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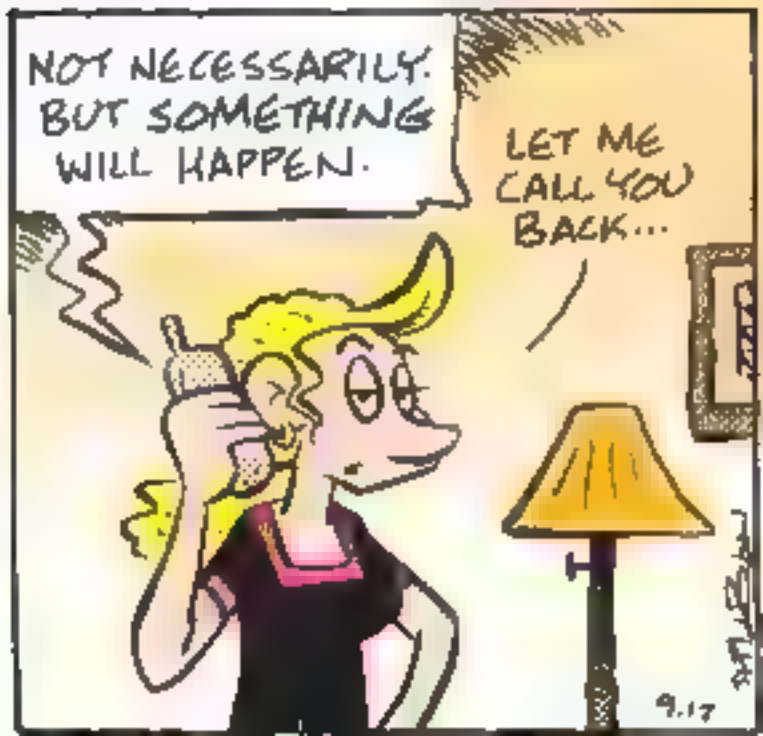
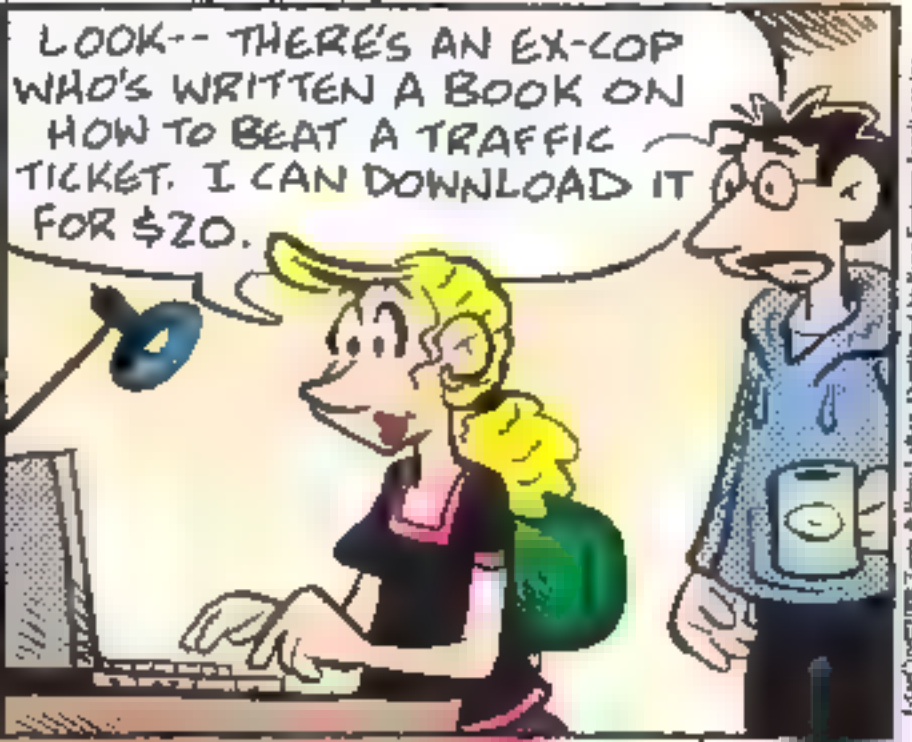
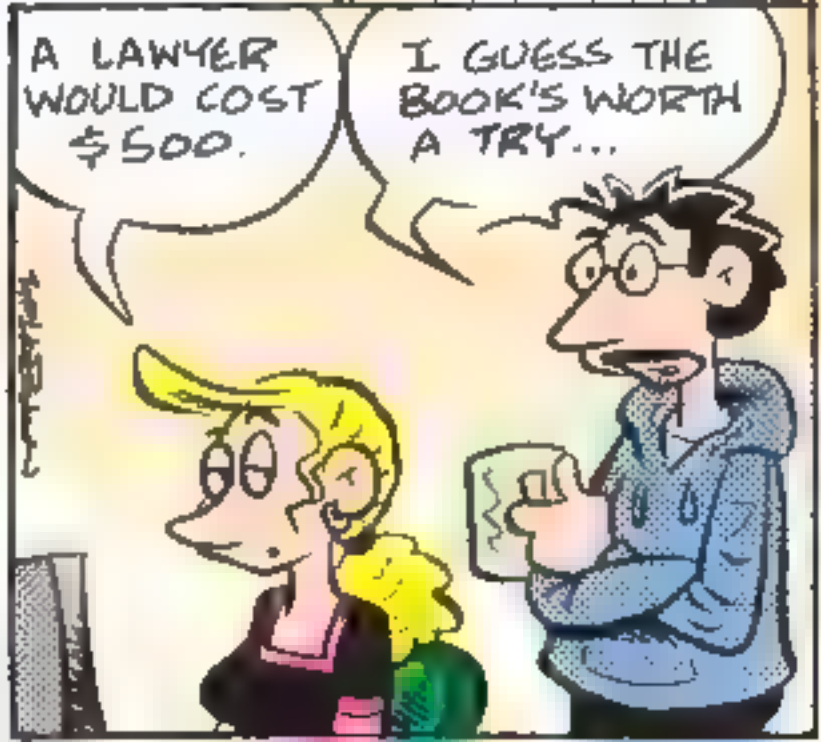
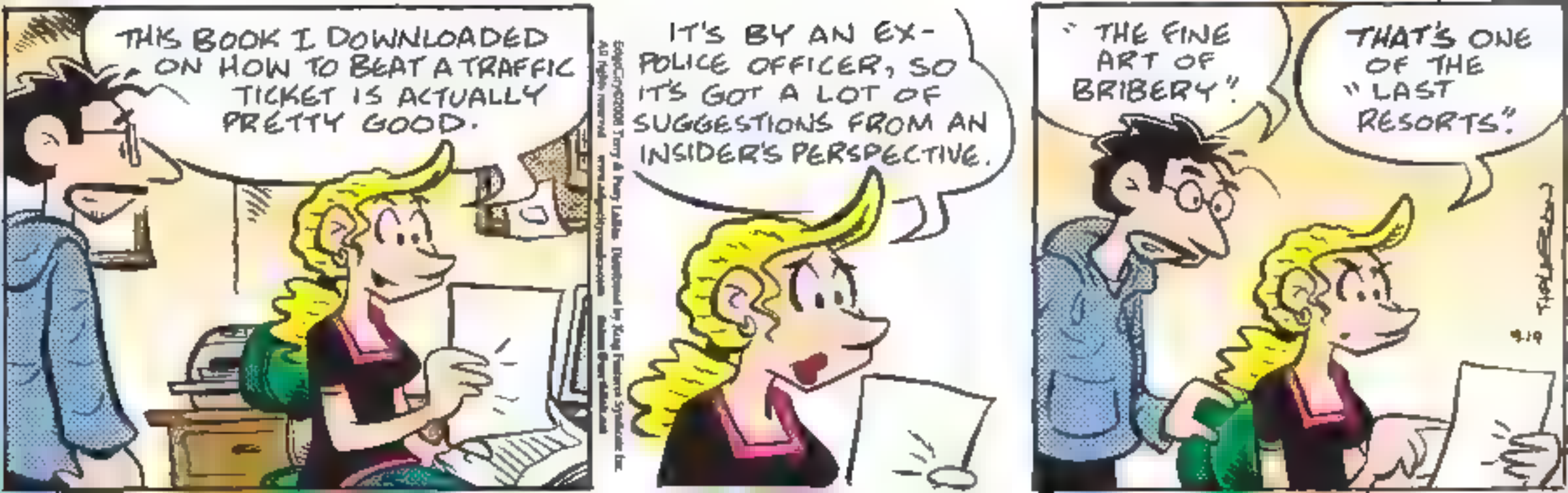


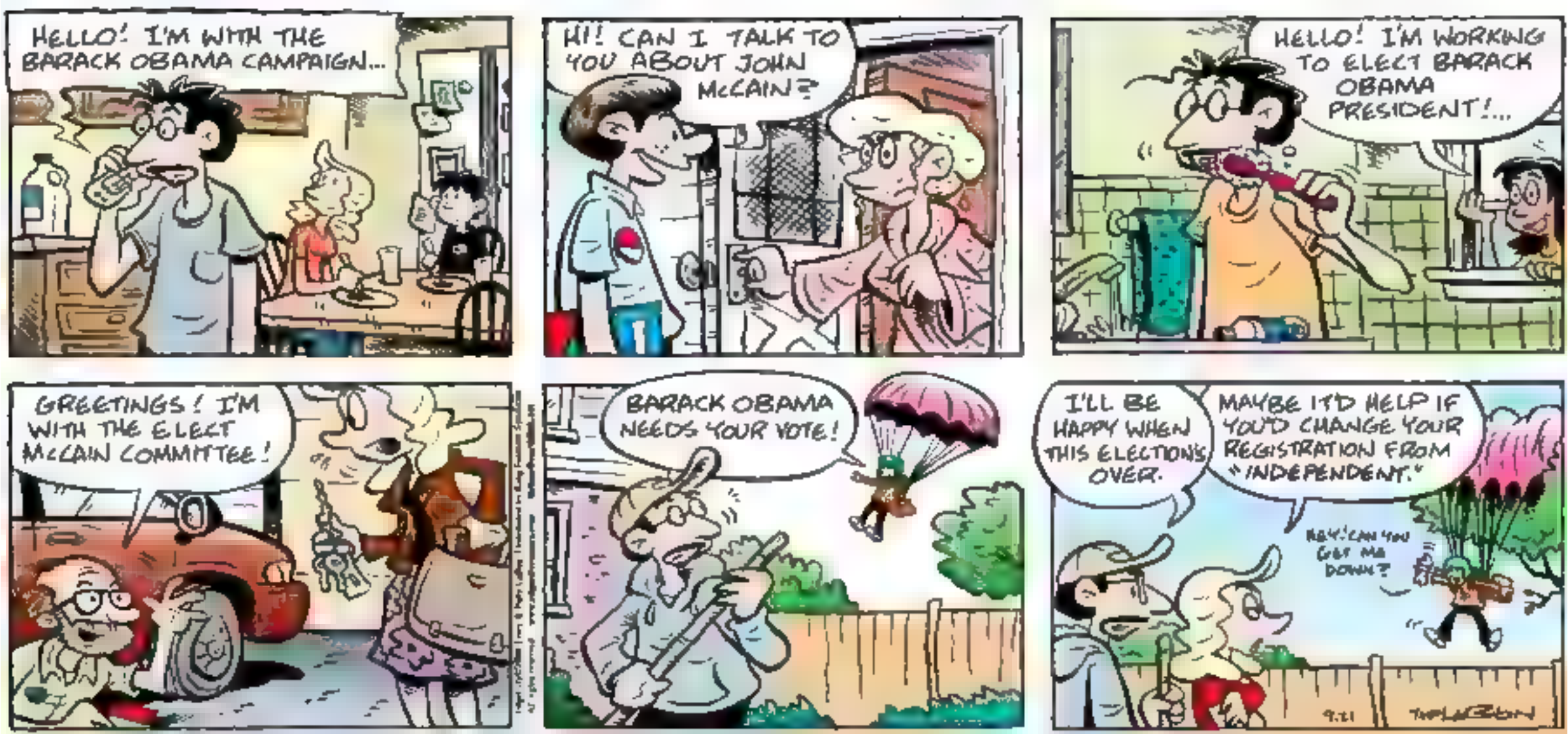

LOOK-- THERE'S AN EX-COP WHO'S WRITTEN A BOOK ON HOW TO BEAT A TRAFFIC TICKET. I CAN DOWNLOAD IT FOR $20.

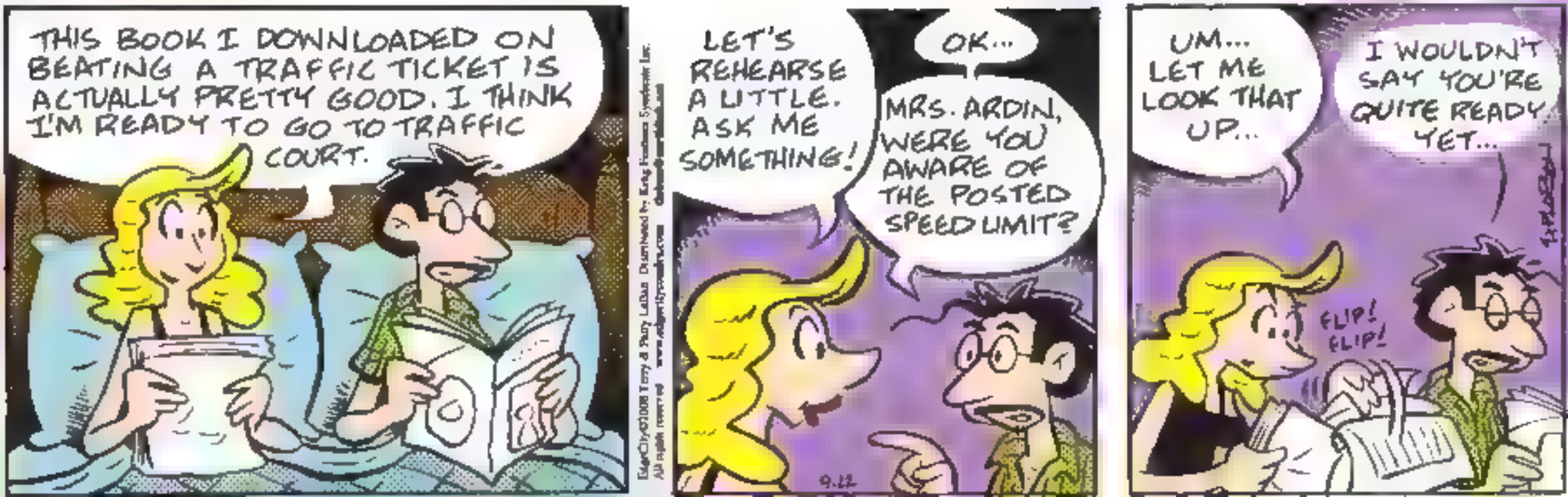
I DON'T KNOW, ABBY-- IT'S PROBABLY USELESS. WEREN'T YOU CHECKING INTO A LAWYER?
9-18

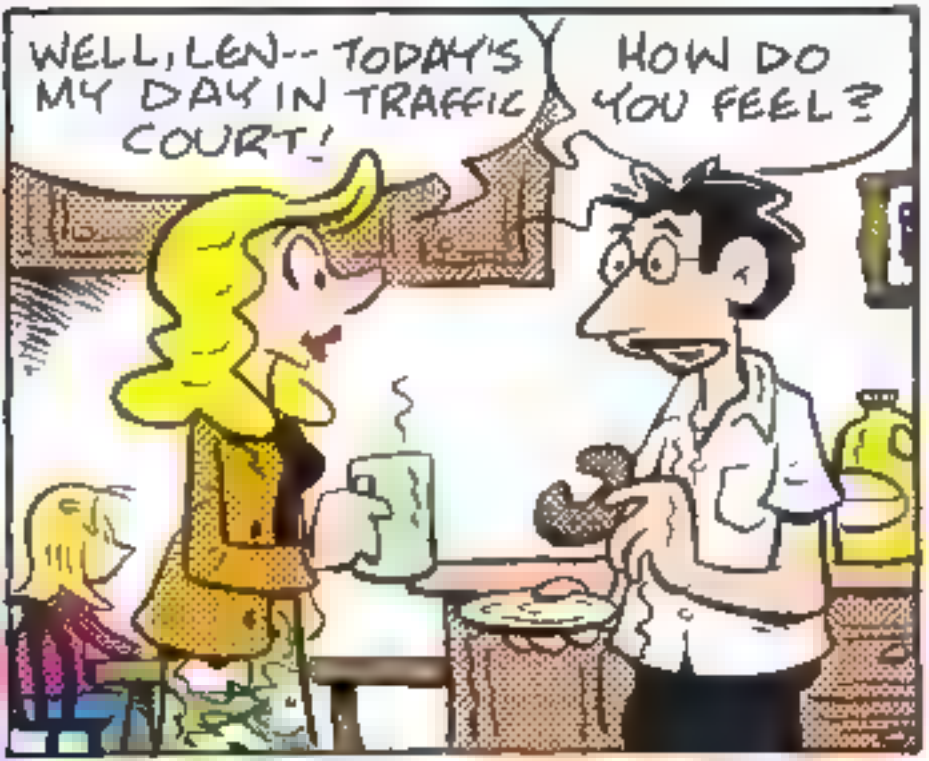

A LAWYER WOULD COST $500.
I GUESS THE BOOK'S WORTH A TRY...


THIS BOOK I DOWNLOADED ON HOW TO BEAT A TRAFFIC TICKET IS ACTUALLY PRETTY GOOD.
IT'S BY AN EX-POLICE OFFICER, SO IT'S GOT A LOT OF SUGGESTIONS FROM AN INSIDER'S PERSPECTIVE.
"THE FINE ART OF BRIBERY".
THAT'S ONE OF THE "LAST RESORTS".

IT'S WEIRD TO HAVE TO GO TO COURT FOR SOMETHING, EVEN IF IT'S JUST A SPEEDING TICKET.
OFFICIALLY, I'M A LAWBREAKER, LEN! A CRIMINAL, EVEN!
HEH! I GUESS THAT'S TRUE!
9.10
WHY ARE YOU LOOKING AT ME LIKE THAT?
I THINK BAD GIRLS ARE HOT.

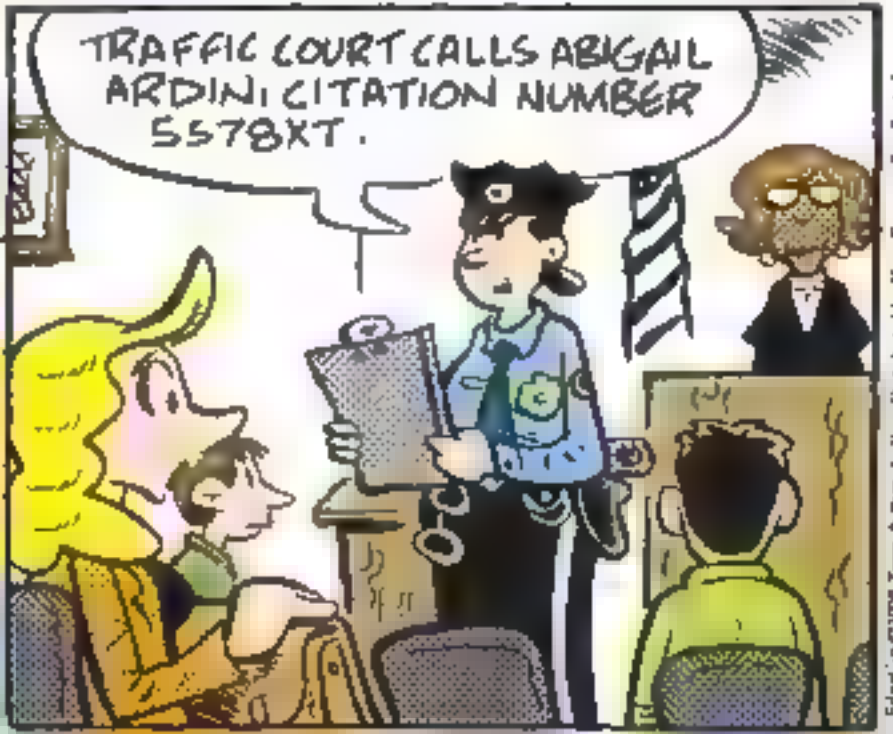

HELLO! I'M WITH THE BARACK OBAMA CAMPAIGN...
HI! CAN I TALK TO YOU ABOUT JOHN McCAIN?
HELLO! I'M WORKING TO ELECT BARACK OBAMA PRESIDENT!...
GREETINGS! I'M WITH THE ELECT McCAIN COMMITTEE!
BARACK OBAMA NEEDS YOUR VOTE!
I'LL BE HAPPY WHEN THIS ELECTION'S OVER.
MAYBE IT'D HELP IF YOU'D CHANGE YOUR REGISTRATION FROM "INDEPENDENT."
HEY! CAN YOU GET ME DOWN?


THIS BOOK I DOWNLOADED ON BEATING A TRAFFIC TICKET IS ACTUALLY PRETTY GOOD. I THINK I'M READY TO GO TO TRAFFIC COURT.
LET'S REHEARSE A LITTLE. ASK ME SOMETHING!
OK...
MRS. ARDIN, WERE YOU AWARE OF THE POSTED SPEED LIMIT?
UM... LET ME LOOK THAT UP...
I WOULDN'T SAY YOU'RE QUITE READY YET...
FLIP! FLIP!


WELL, LEN-- TODAY'S MY DAY IN TRAFFIC COURT!
HOW DO YOU FEEL?

WELL... I'M PRETTY CONFIDENT. BUT YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN.
9.13

WHEN IT'S OVER I'LL GIVE YOU A CALL.
I'LL MAKE SURE MY PHONE'S ON, IN CASE YOU'RE ONLY ALLOWED ONE...



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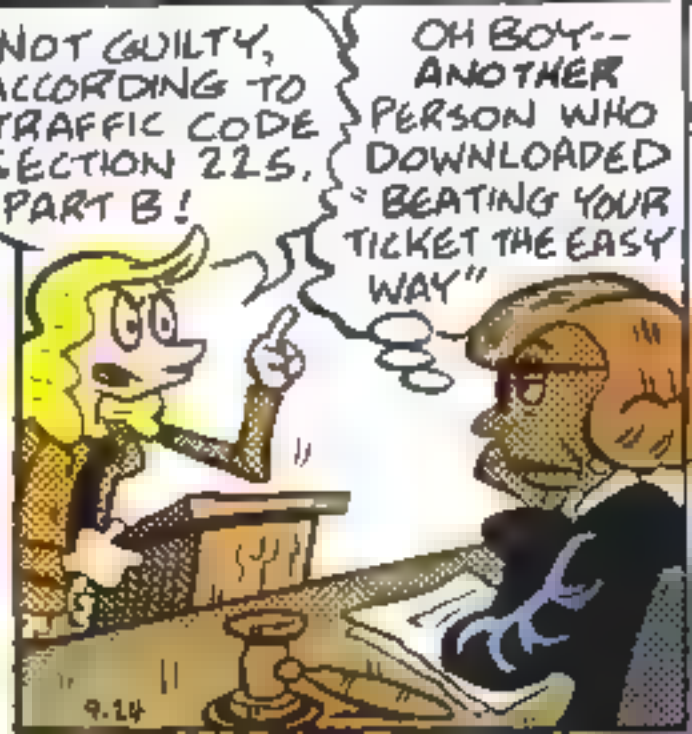

YOU'RE ENTERING A "NOT GUILTY" PLEA ON YOUR TRAFFIC CITATION, MRS. ARDIN?

YES, YOUR HONOR.

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IS THE ARRESTING OFFICER HERE TO TESTIFY? NO?

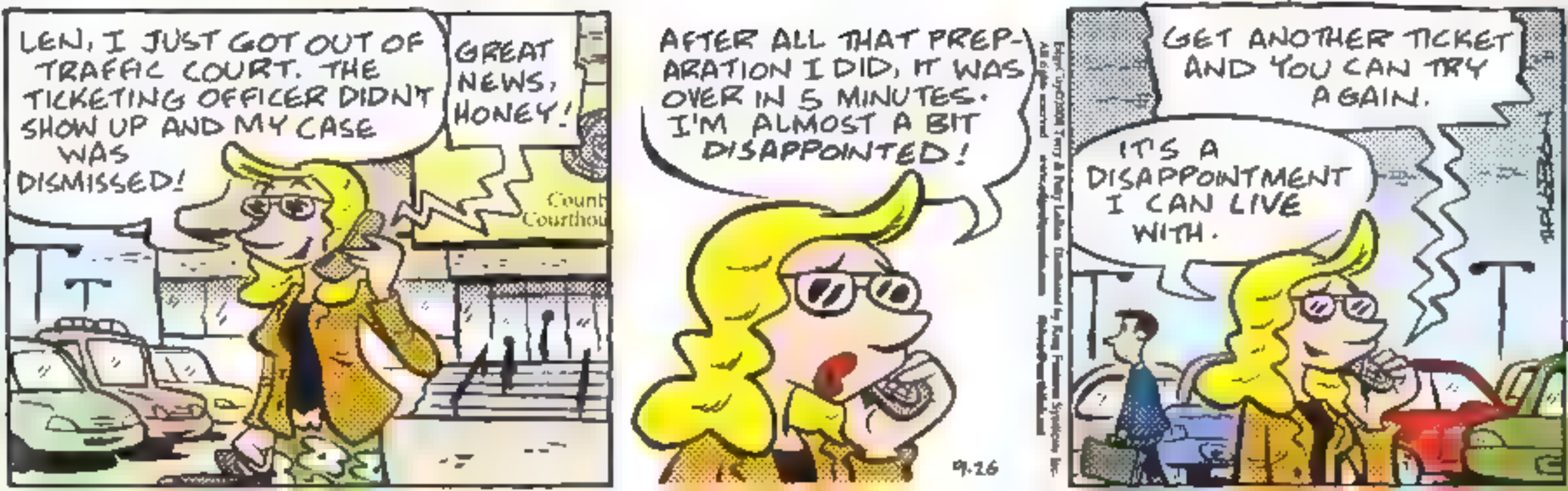
OK--CASE DISMISSED!

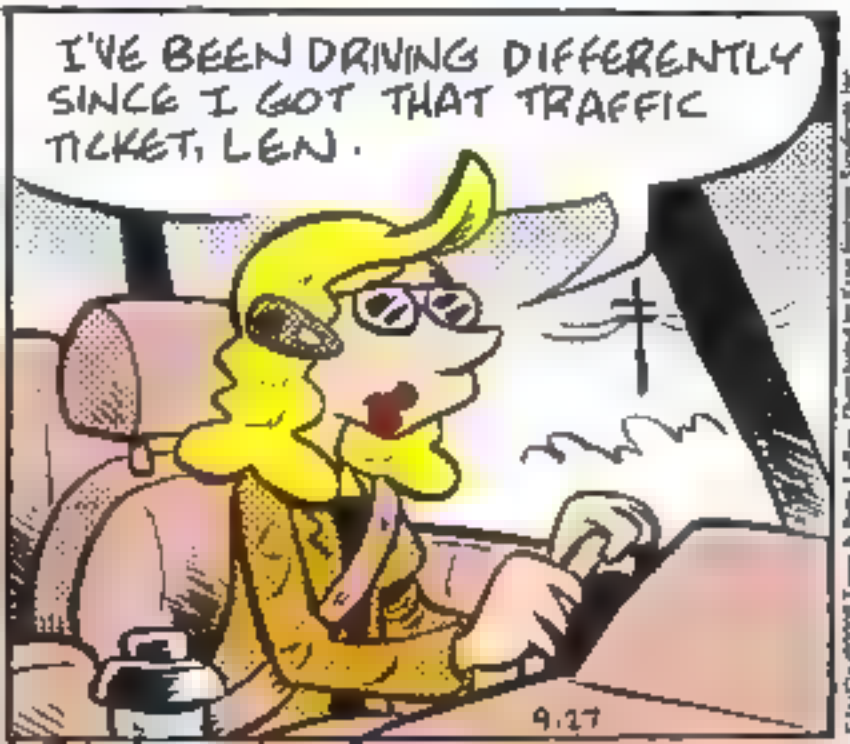
WOP!

THAT'S ALL?

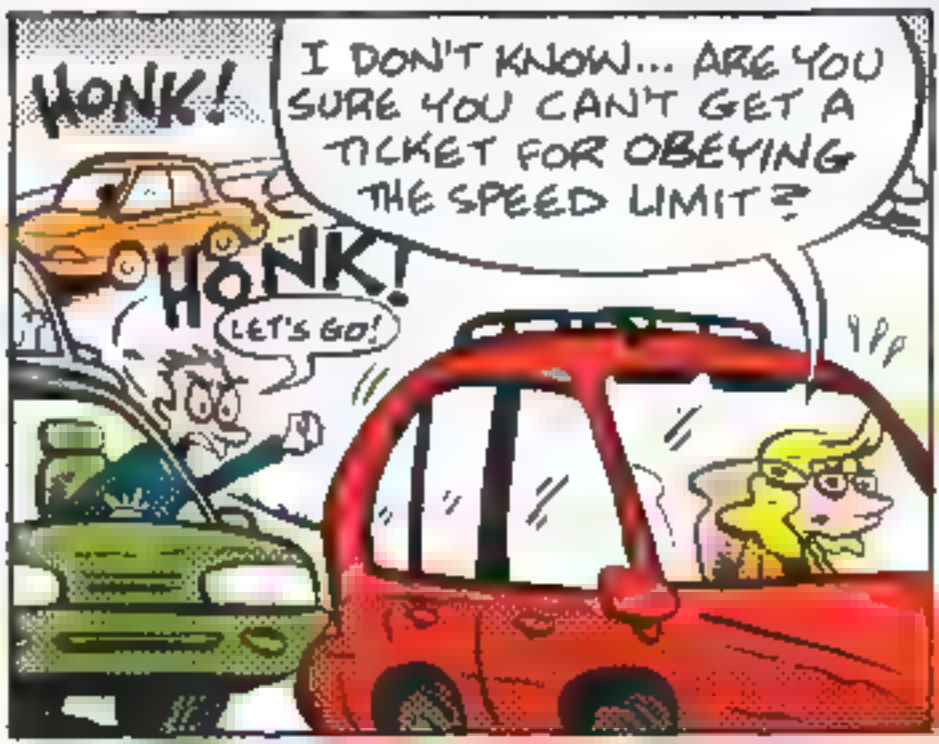
FOR MOST PEOPLE IT'S GOOD NEWS, MRS. ARDIN.

9.25


LEN, I JUST GOT OUT OF TRAFFIC COURT. THE TICKETING OFFICER DIDN'T SHOW UP AND MY CASE WAS DISMISSED!
GREAT NEWS, HONEY!
AFTER ALL THAT PREPARATION I DID, IT WAS OVER IN 5 MINUTES. I'M ALMOST A BIT DISAPPOINTED!
9-26
GET ANOTHER TICKET AND YOU CAN TRY AGAIN.
IT'S A DISAPPOINTMENT I CAN LIVE WITH.

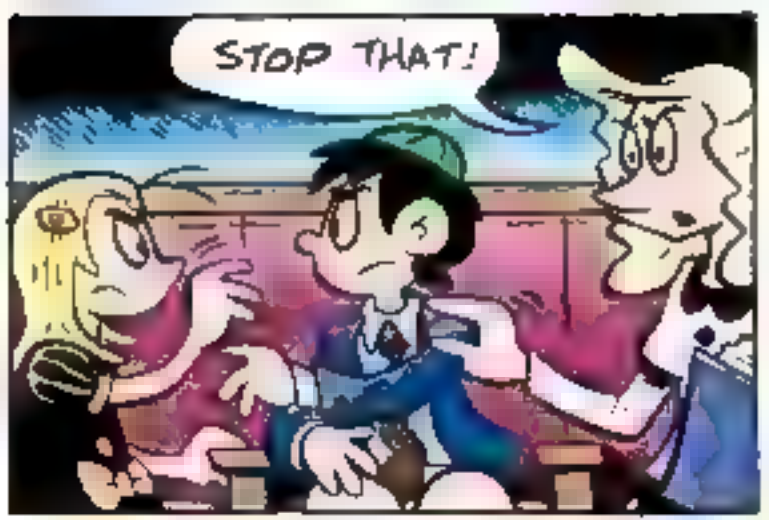

I'VE BEEN DRIVING DIFFERENTLY SINCE I GOT THAT TRAFFIC TICKET, LEN.
9.27

EVEN THOUGH IT GOT DISMISSED, I'VE BEEN MUCH MORE CAREFUL.
THAT'S GOOD, ABBY!


HONK!
I DON'T KNOW... ARE YOU SURE YOU CAN'T GET A TICKET FOR OBEYING THE SPEED LIMIT?
HONK!
LET'S GO!

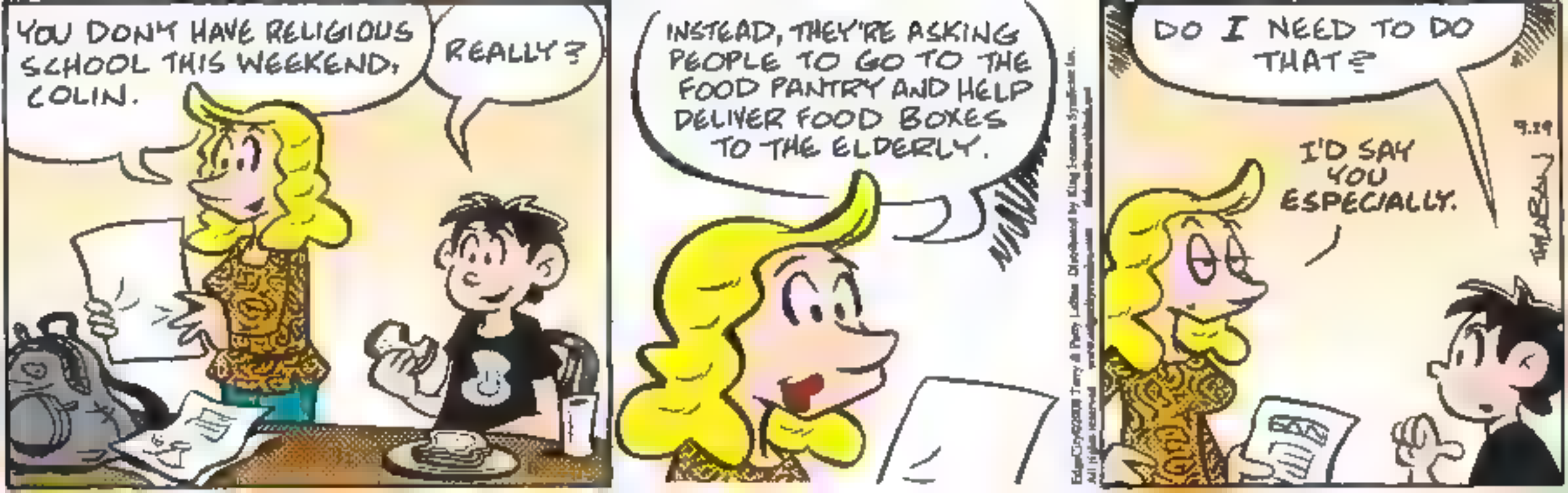
I'M BORED!
CAN WE GO OUT YET?
SHH! NOT NOW!

CARLY! GET BACK IN YOUR SEAT!


STOP THAT!

FOR GOODNESS' SAKE, IT'S ROSH HASHANAH! CAN'T YOU KIDS SIT STILL FOR A LITTLE WHILE?
YOU MEAN LIKE DAD?

NO...NOT EXACTLY.
ZZZZ


YOU DON'T HAVE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL THIS WEEKEND, COLIN.
REALLY?
INSTEAD, THEY'RE ASKING PEOPLE TO GO TO THE FOOD PANTRY AND HELP DELIVER FOOD BOXES TO THE ELDERLY.
DO I NEED TO DO THAT?
I'D SAY YOU ESPECIALLY.
9.29

YOUR RELIGIOUS SCHOOL IS HELPING TO DELIVER FOOD BOXES TO THE ELDERLY SUNDAY. I THINK YOU SHOULD VOLUNTEER.

DO I HAVE TO?

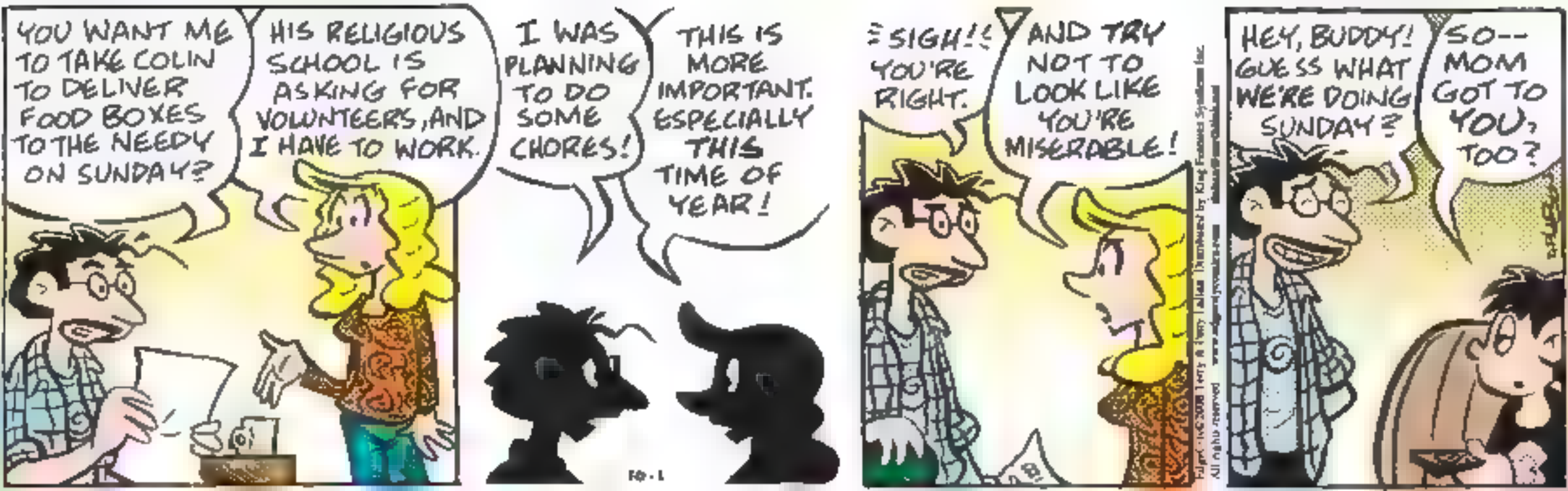
ABSOLUTELY! CHARITABLE DEEDS ARE IMPORTANT, ESPECIALLY THIS TIME OF YEAR!

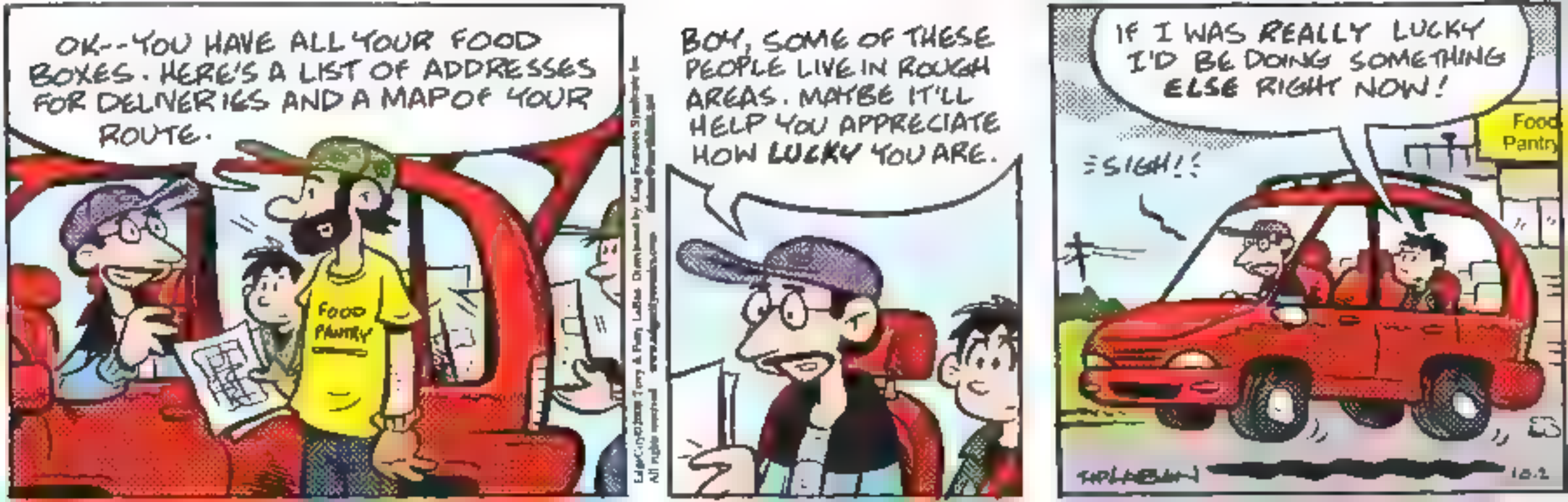
I'VE GOT CLIENTS SCHEDULED THEN, BUT YOUR DAD WILL BE AROUND.

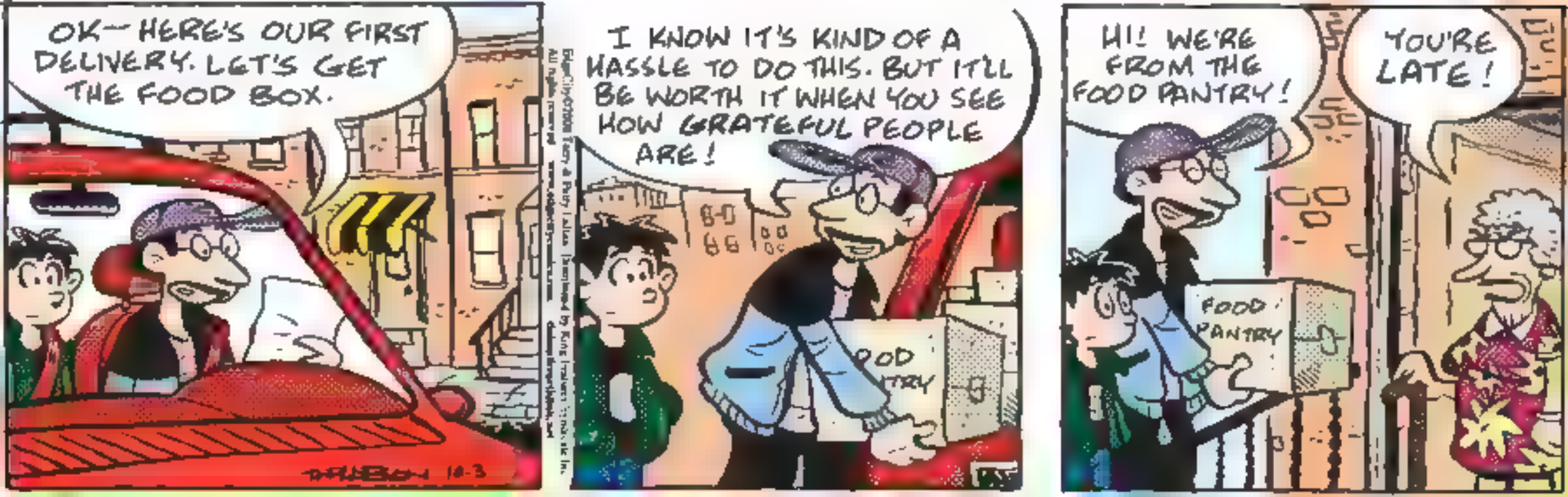
CAN YOU TAKE COLIN TO DELIVER FOOD BOXES SUNDAY?

DO I HAVE TO?

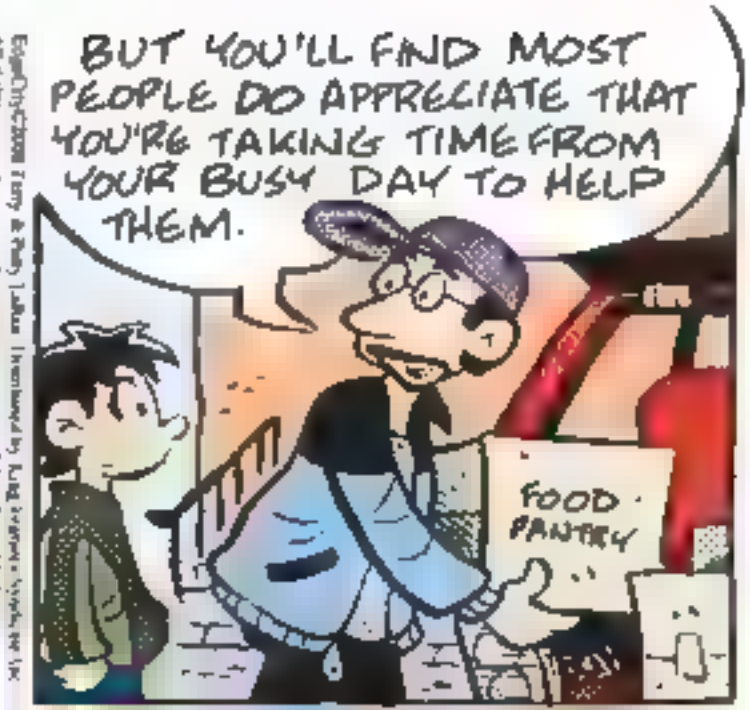
9-30


YOU WANT ME TO TAKE COLIN TO DELIVER FOOD BOXES TO THE NEEDY ON SUNDAY?
HIS RELIGIOUS SCHOOL IS ASKING FOR VOLUNTEERS, AND I HAVE TO WORK.
I WAS PLANNING TO DO SOME CHORES!
THIS IS MORE IMPORTANT. ESPECIALLY THIS TIME OF YEAR!
SIGH!! YOU'RE RIGHT.
AND TRY NOT TO LOOK LIKE YOU'RE MISERABLE!
HEY, BUDDY! GUESS WHAT WE'RE DOING SUNDAY?
SO-- MOM GOT TO YOU, TOO?

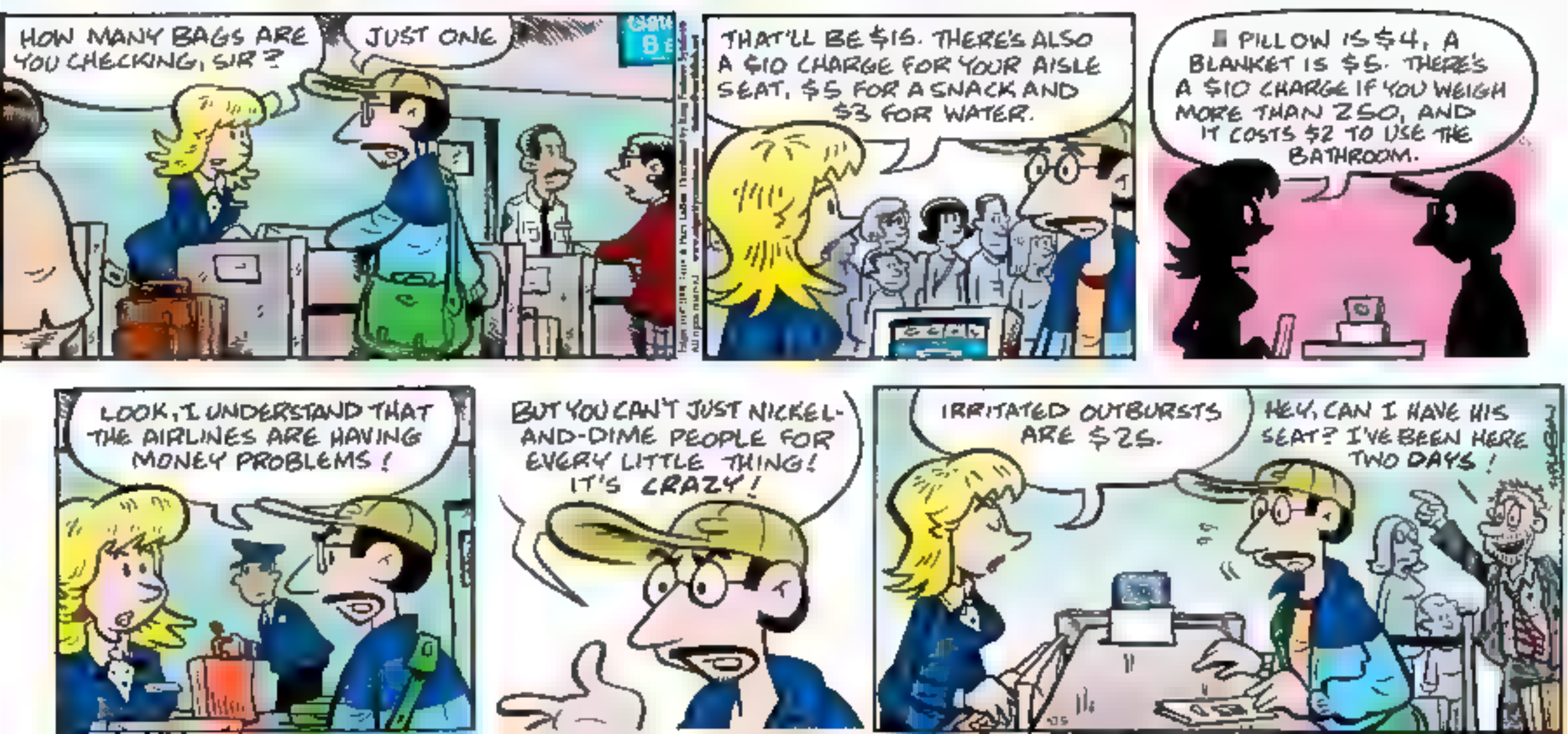

OK--YOU HAVE ALL YOUR FOOD BOXES. HERE'S A LIST OF ADDRESSES FOR DELIVERIES AND A MAP OF YOUR ROUTE.
FOOD PANTRY
BOY, SOME OF THESE PEOPLE LIVE IN ROUGH AREAS. MAYBE IT'LL HELP YOU APPRECIATE HOW LUCKY YOU ARE.
IF I WAS REALLY LUCKY I'D BE DOING SOMETHING ELSE RIGHT NOW!
SIGH!
Food Pantry

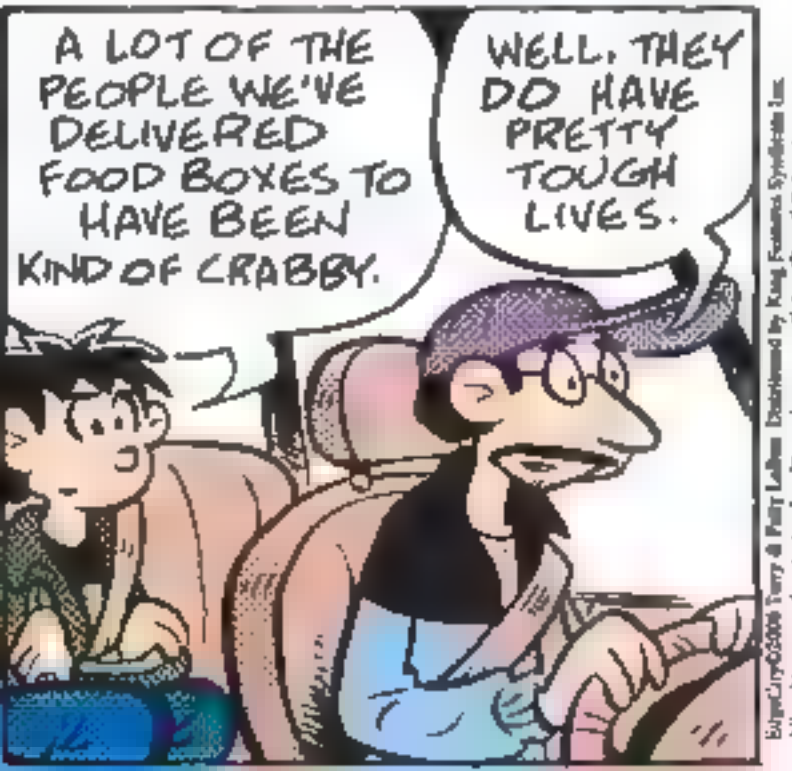

OK— HERE'S OUR FIRST DELIVERY. LET'S GET THE FOOD BOX.
I KNOW IT'S KIND OF A HASSLE TO DO THIS. BUT IT'LL BE WORTH IT WHEN YOU SEE HOW GRATEFUL PEOPLE ARE!
HI! WE'RE FROM THE FOOD PANTRY!
YOU'RE LATE!
FOOD PANTRY

BOY, THE FIRST PERSON WE DELIVERED A FOOD BOX TO WASN'T VERY THANKFUL!
SOMETIMES PEOPLE GET CRANKY WHEN THEY HAVE HARD LIVES.

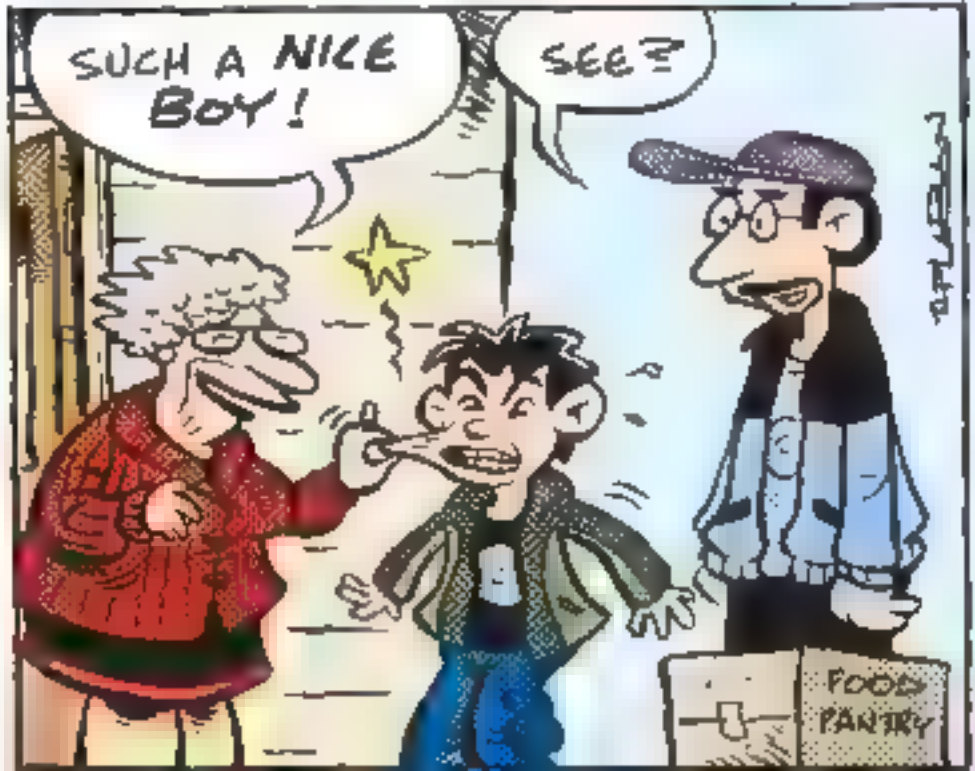

BUT YOU'LL FIND MOST PEOPLE DO APPRECIATE THAT YOU'RE TAKING TIME FROM YOUR BUSY DAY TO HELP THEM.
FOOD PANTRY

WHERE'S THE OREOS? LAST MONTH, THEY GAVE US OREOS!
FOOD


HOW MANY BAGS ARE YOU CHECKING, SIR?
JUST ONE
THAT'LL BE $15. THERE'S ALSO A $10 CHARGE FOR YOUR AISLE SEAT, $5 FOR A SNACK AND $3 FOR WATER.
A PILLOW IS $4, A BLANKET IS $5. THERE'S A $10 CHARGE IF YOU WEIGH MORE THAN 250, AND IT COSTS $2 TO USE THE BATHROOM.
LOOK, I UNDERSTAND THAT THE AIRLINES ARE HAVING MONEY PROBLEMS!
BUT YOU CAN'T JUST NICKEL-AND-DIME PEOPLE FOR EVERY LITTLE THING! IT'S CRAZY!
IRRITATED OUTBURSTS ARE $25.
HEY, CAN I HAVE HIS SEAT? I'VE BEEN HERE TWO DAYS!


A LOT OF THE PEOPLE WE'VE DELIVERED FOOD BOXES TO HAVE BEEN KIND OF CRABBY.
WELL, THEY DO HAVE PRETTY TOUGH LIVES.

WHAT'S IMPORTANT IS THAT WE'RE DOING SOMETHING GOOD. I'M SURE WE'LL MEET PEOPLE WHO ARE MORE APPRECIATIVE.
10-6


SUCH A NICE BOY!
SEE?
FOOD PANTRY

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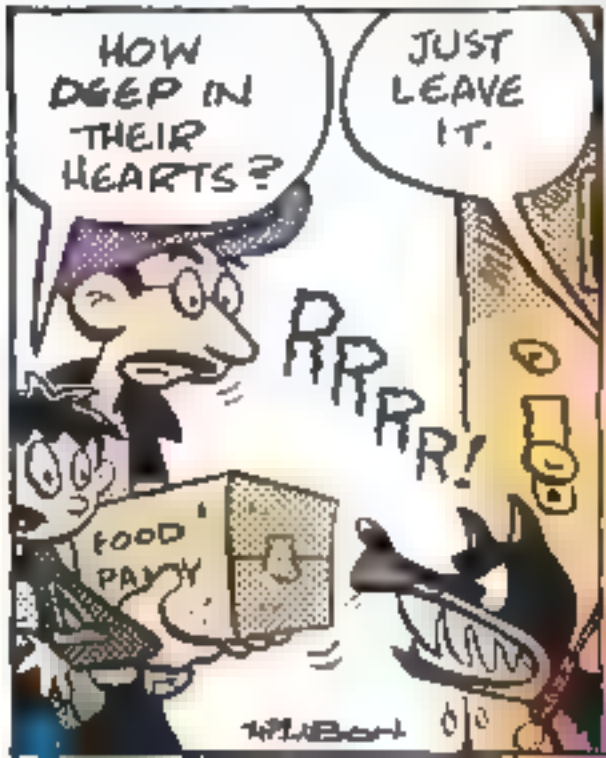
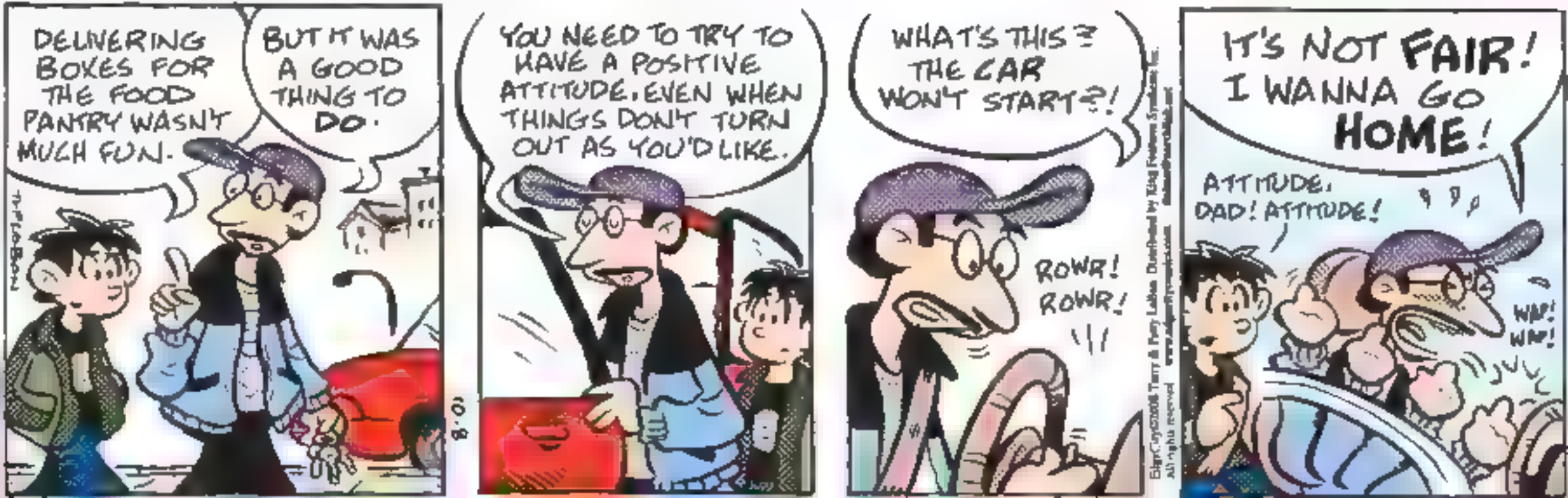
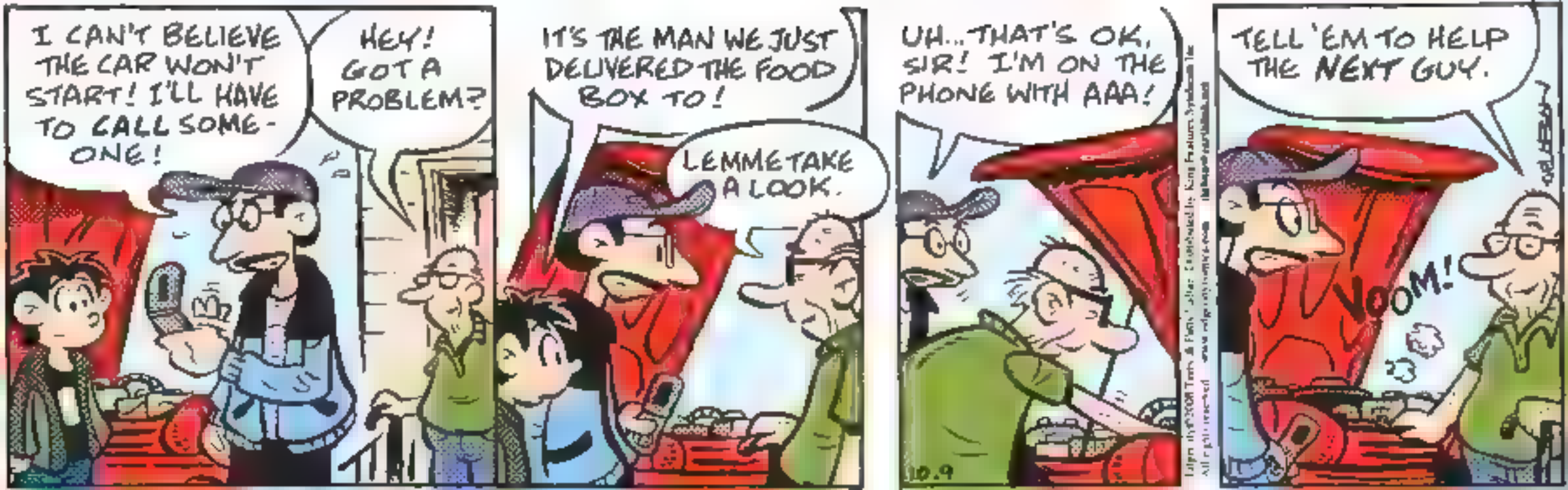
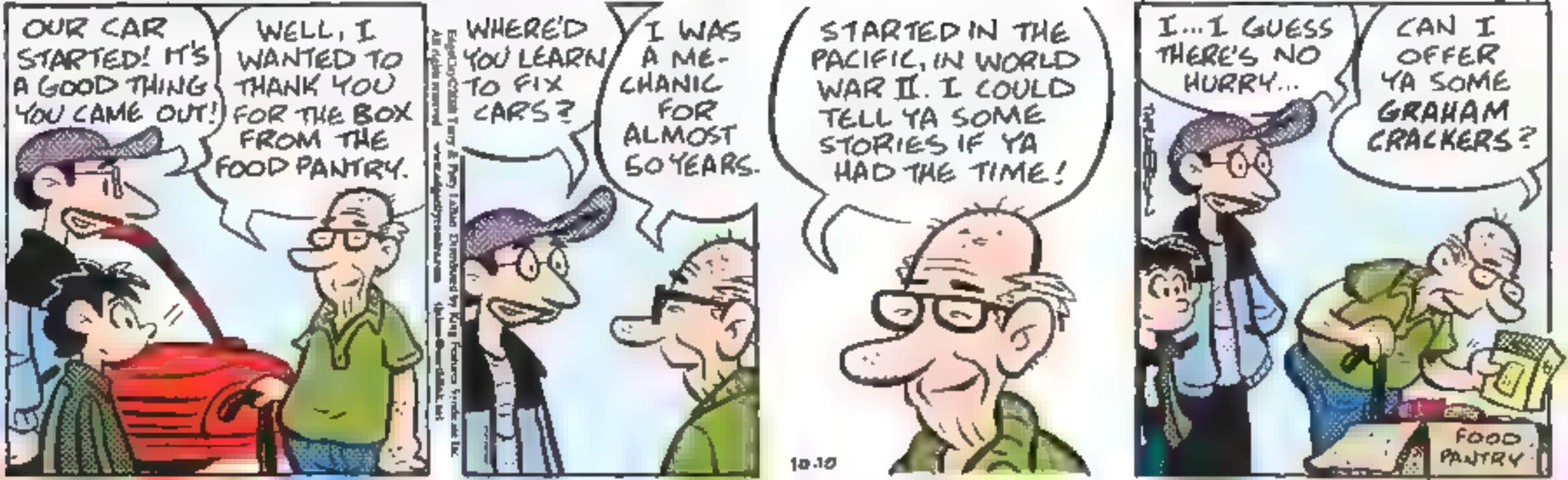
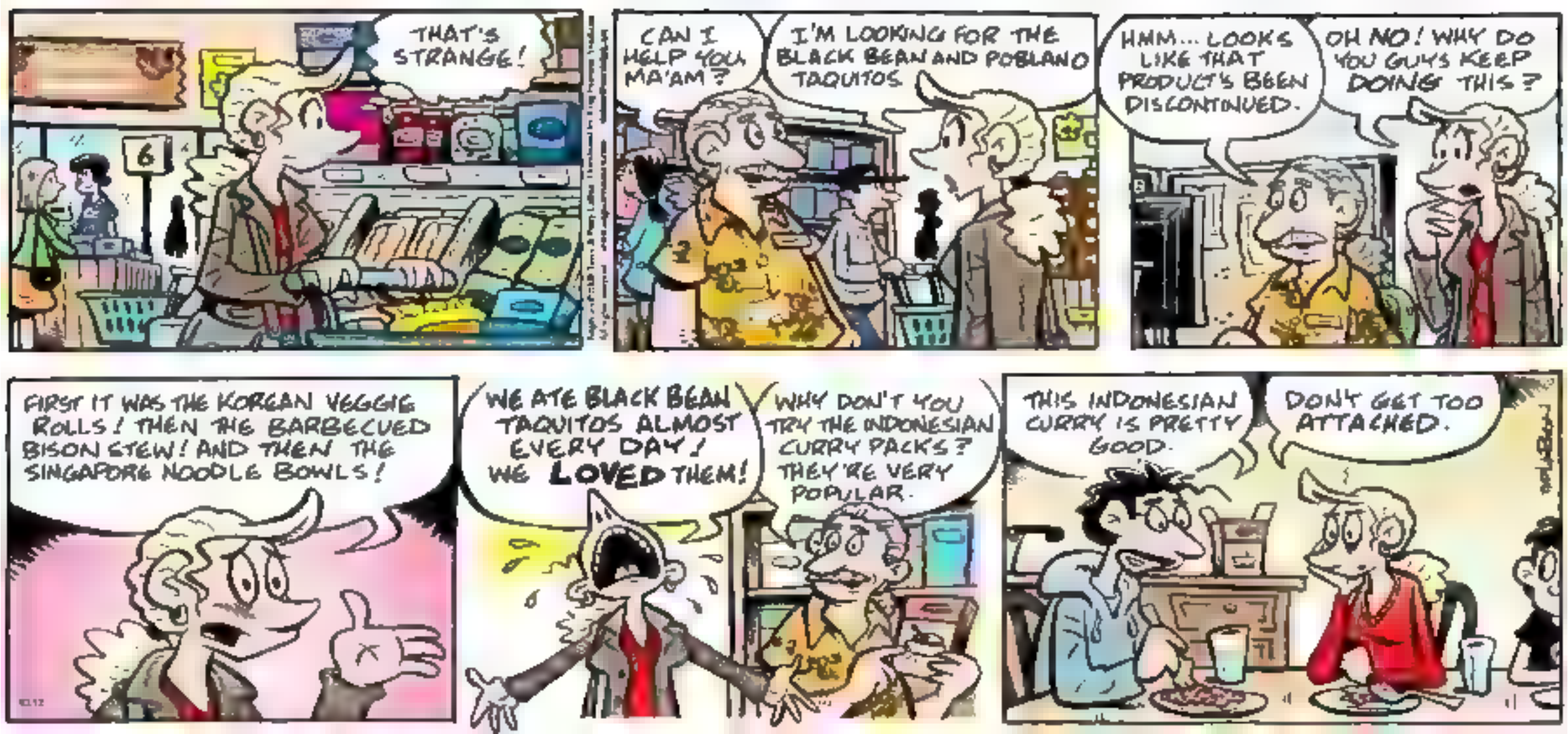



DELIVERING BOXES FOR THE FOOD PANTRY WASN'T MUCH FUN.
BUT IT WAS A GOOD THING TO DO.
YOU NEED TO TRY TO HAVE A POSITIVE ATTITUDE, EVEN WHEN THINGS DON'T TURN OUT AS YOU'D LIKE.
WHAT'S THIS? THE CAR WON'T START?!
ROWR! ROWR!
IT'S NOT FAIR! I WANNA GO HOME!
ATTITUDE, DAD! ATTITUDE!
WAP! WAP!


I CAN'T BELIEVE THE CAR WON'T START! I'LL HAVE TO CALL SOME-ONE!
HEY! GOT A PROBLEM?
IT'S THE MAN WE JUST DELIVERED THE FOOD BOX TO!
LEMME TAKE A LOOK.
UH... THAT'S OK, SIR! I'M ON THE PHONE WITH AAA!
10.9
TELL 'EM TO HELP THE NEXT GUY.
VROOM!

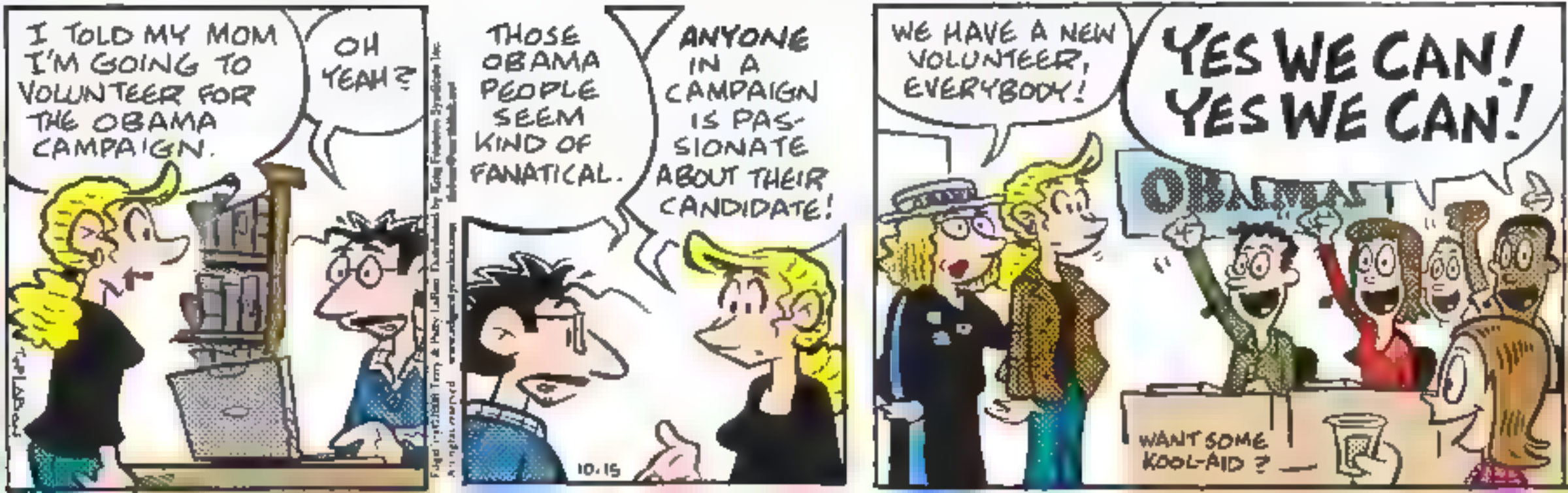

OUR CAR STARTED! IT'S A GOOD THING YOU CAME OUT!
WELL, I WANTED TO THANK YOU FOR THE BOX FROM THE FOOD PANTRY.
WHERE'D YOU LEARN TO FIX CARS?
I WAS A MECHANIC FOR ALMOST 50 YEARS.
STARTED IN THE PACIFIC, IN WORLD WAR II. I COULD TELL YA SOME STORIES IF YA HAD THE TIME!
I...I GUESS THERE'S NO HURRY...
CAN I OFFER YA SOME GRAHAM CRACKERS?
FOOD PANTRY
10-10

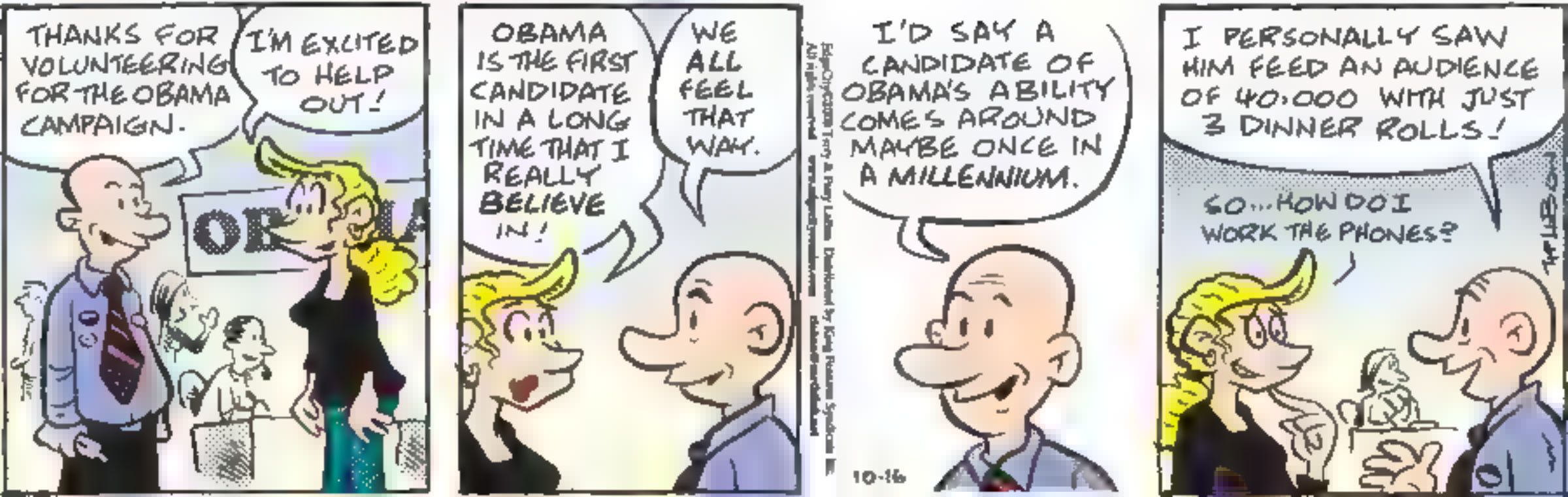
HOW DID DELIVERING BOXES FOR THE FOOD PANTRY GO?
PRETTY GOOD AFTER ALL!
THE LAST GUY NOT ONLY FIXED OUR CAR, HE TOLD US SOME AMAZING STORIES ABOUT FIGHTING IN WORLD WAR II.
SO YOU'RE GLAD YOU WENT?
OH, YEAH. I GUESS WHEN YOU GIVE A LITTLE, YOU GET A LOT BACK!
THAT'S WHAT THEY SAY.
WE'LL HAVE A LOT MORE RESPECT FOR PLATITUDES FROM NOW ON!

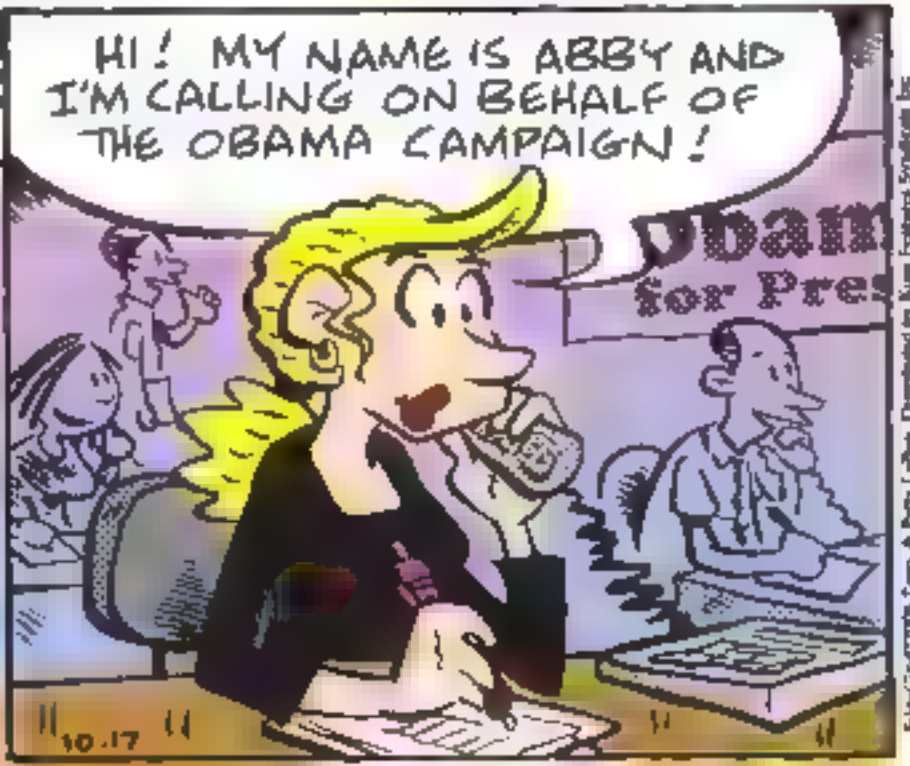

THAT'S STRANGE!
CAN I HELP YOU MA'AM?
I'M LOOKING FOR THE BLACK BEAN AND POBLANO TAQUITOS.
HMM... LOOKS LIKE THAT PRODUCT'S BEEN DISCONTINUED.
OH NO! WHY DO YOU GUYS KEEP DOING THIS?
FIRST IT WAS THE KOREAN VEGGIE ROLLS! THEN THE BARBECUED BISON STEW! AND THEN THE SINGAPORE NOODLE BOWLS!
WE ATE BLACK BEAN TAQUITOS ALMOST EVERY DAY! WE LOVED THEM!
WHY DON'T YOU TRY THE INDONESIAN CURRY PACKS? THEY'RE VERY POPULAR.
THIS INDONESIAN CURRY IS PRETTY GOOD.
DON'T GET TOO ATTACHED.

BOY, THE ELECTION'S REALLY HEATING UP!
YEAH--IT'S JUST A COUPLE OF WEEKS AWAY.
MY MOM'S BEEN WORKING HARD ON THE OBAMA CAMPAIGN. I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT VOLUNTEERING MYSELF.
10.12
WHERE WILL YOU FIND THE TIME?
I DON'T KNOW--THAT'S WHY I'M STILL JUST THINKING ABOUT IT.

HI, ABBY!
HI, MOM! HOW'S THE CAMPAIGN GOING?
PRETTY CRAZY-- THIS IS CRUNCH TIME!
I'VE BEEN THINKING I'D LIKE TO VOLUNTEER.
WONDERFUL! WE COULD REALLY USE YOUR HELP-- THERE'S SOMETHING GOING ON EVERY MINUTE.
WELL-- I DON'T HAVE A TON OF TIME...
HOW'BOUT IF I PUT YOU DOWN FOR EVERY OTHER MINUTE?


I TOLD MY MOM I'M GOING TO VOLUNTEER FOR THE OBAMA CAMPAIGN.
OH YEAH?
THOSE OBAMA PEOPLE SEEM KIND OF FANATICAL.
ANYONE IN A CAMPAIGN IS PASSIONATE ABOUT THEIR CANDIDATE!
10.15
WE HAVE A NEW VOLUNTEER, EVERYBODY!
YES WE CAN! YES WE CAN!
OBAMA
WANT SOME KOOL-AID?


THANKS FOR VOLUNTEERING FOR THE OBAMA CAMPAIGN.
I'M EXCITED TO HELP OUT!
OBAMA IS THE FIRST CANDIDATE IN A LONG TIME THAT I REALLY BELIEVE IN!
WE ALL FEEL THAT WAY.
I'D SAY A CANDIDATE OF OBAMA'S ABILITY COMES AROUND MAYBE ONCE IN A MILLENNIUM.
10-16
I PERSONALLY SAW HIM FEED AN AUDIENCE OF 40,000 WITH JUST 3 DINNER ROLLS!
SO...HOW DO I WORK THE PHONES?



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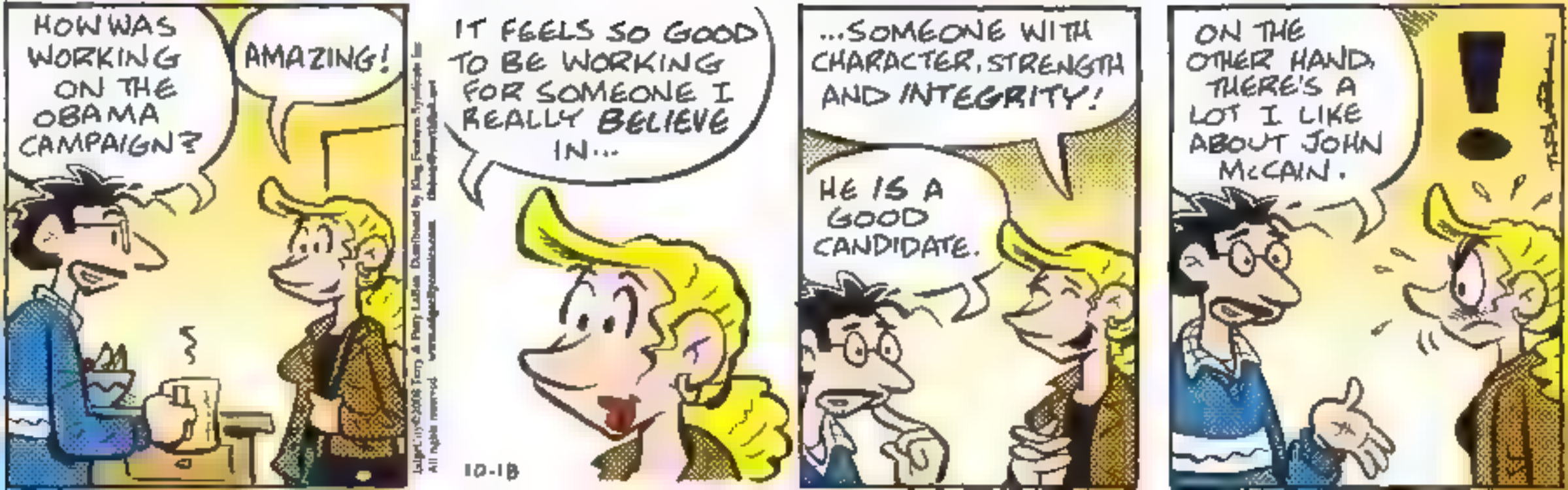
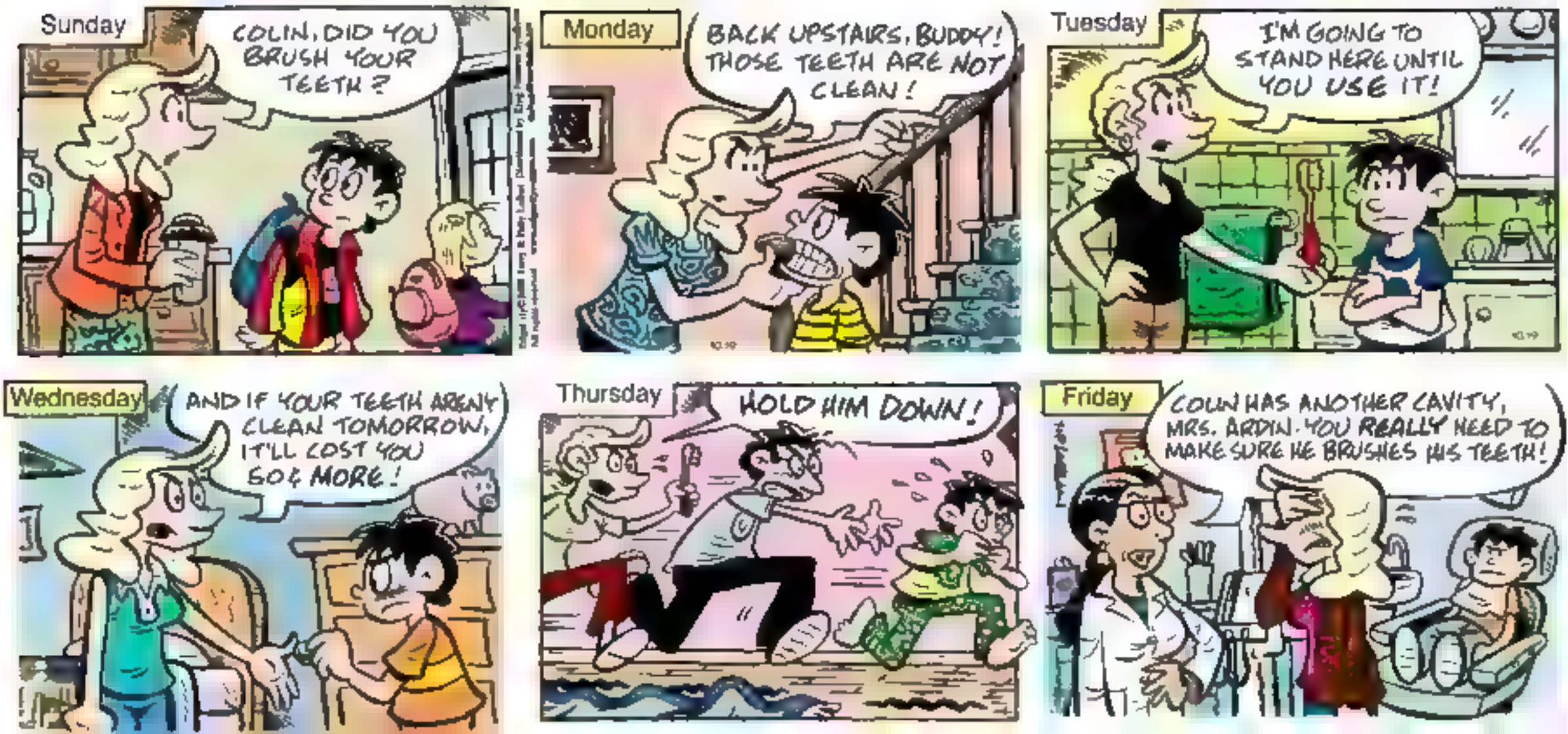
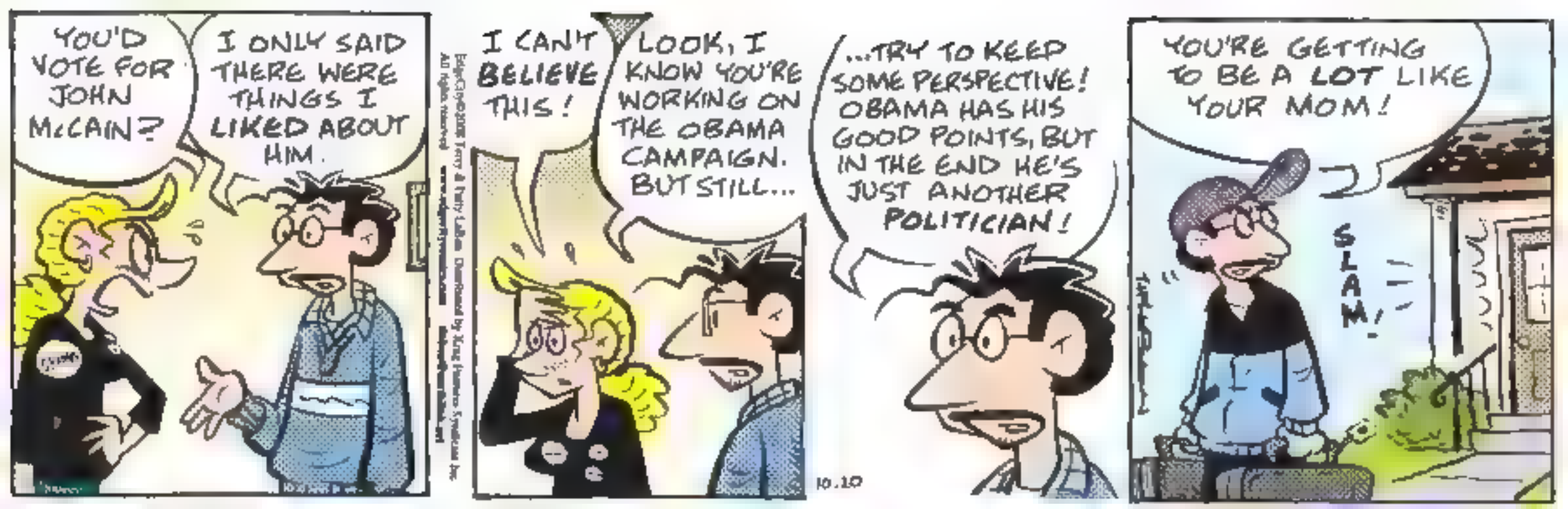
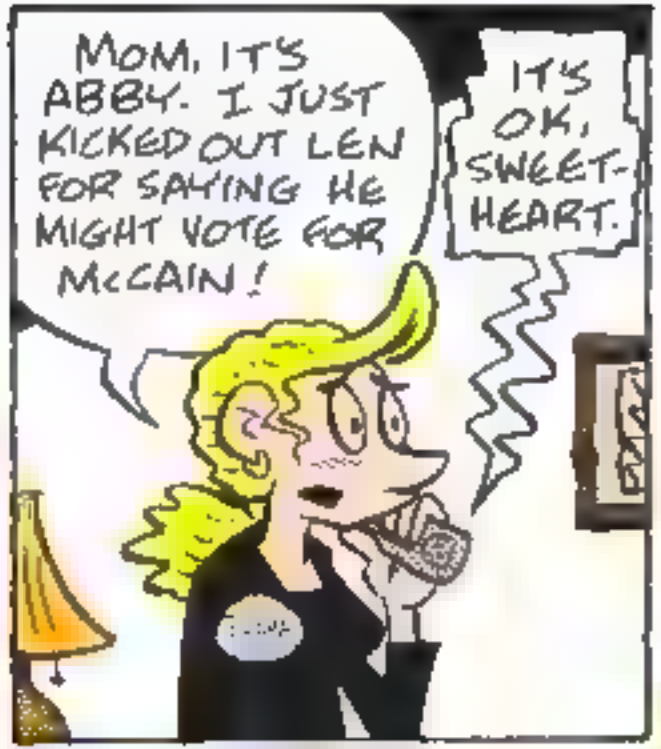
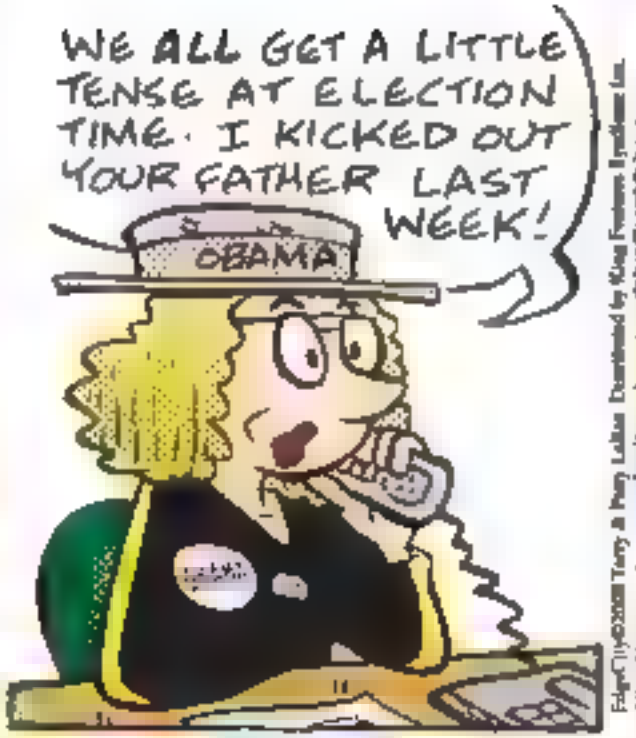

HOW WAS WORKING ON THE OBAMA CAMPAIGN?
AMAZING!
IT FEELS SO GOOD TO BE WORKING FOR SOMEONE I REALLY BELIEVE IN...
...SOMEONE WITH CHARACTER, STRENGTH AND INTEGRITY!
HE IS A GOOD CANDIDATE.
ON THE OTHER HAND, THERE'S A LOT I LIKE ABOUT JOHN McCAIN.
!
10-18


Sunday
COLIN, DID YOU BRUSH YOUR TEETH?
Monday
BACK UPSTAIRS, BUDDY! THOSE TEETH ARE NOT CLEAN!
Tuesday
I'M GOING TO STAND HERE UNTIL YOU USE IT!
Wednesday
AND IF YOUR TEETH AREN'T CLEAN TOMORROW, IT'LL COST YOU 50¢ MORE!
Thursday
HOLD HIM DOWN!
Friday
COLIN HAS ANOTHER CAVITY, MRS. ARDIN. YOU REALLY NEED TO MAKE SURE HE BRUSHES HIS TEETH!


YOU'D VOTE FOR JOHN McCAIN?
I ONLY SAID THERE WERE THINGS I LIKED ABOUT HIM.
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS!
LOOK, I KNOW YOU'RE WORKING ON THE OBAMA CAMPAIGN. BUT STILL...
...TRY TO KEEP SOME PERSPECTIVE! OBAMA HAS HIS GOOD POINTS, BUT IN THE END HE'S JUST ANOTHER POLITICIAN!
YOU'RE GETTING TO BE A LOT LIKE YOUR MOM!
SLAM!





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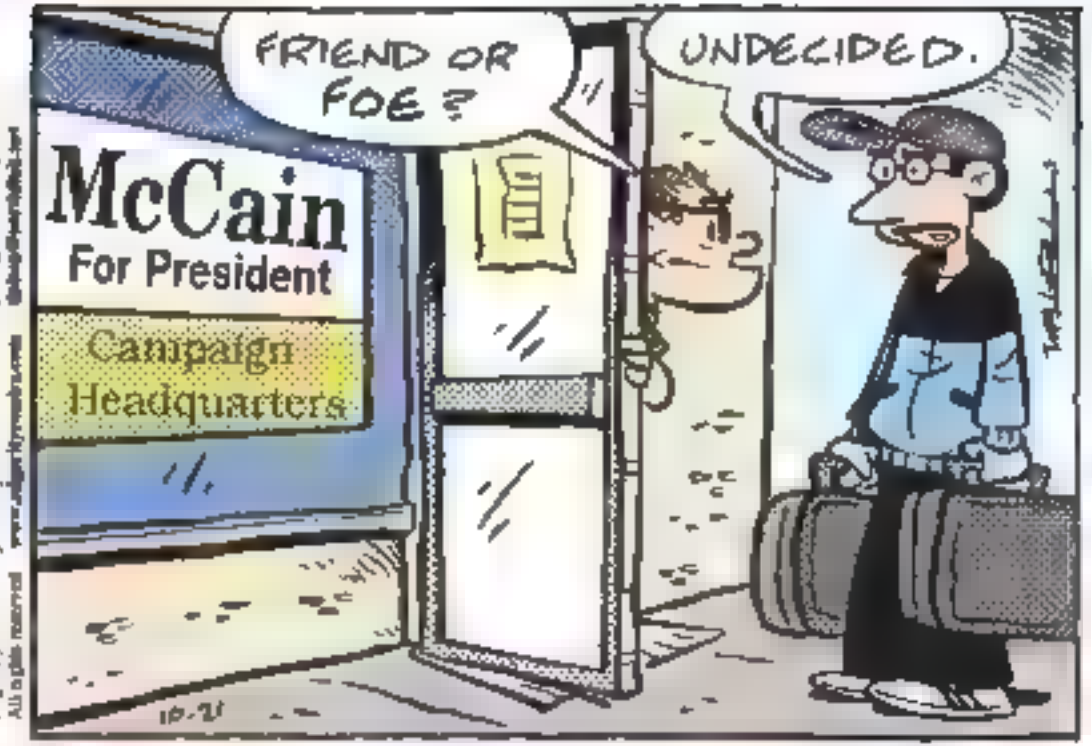
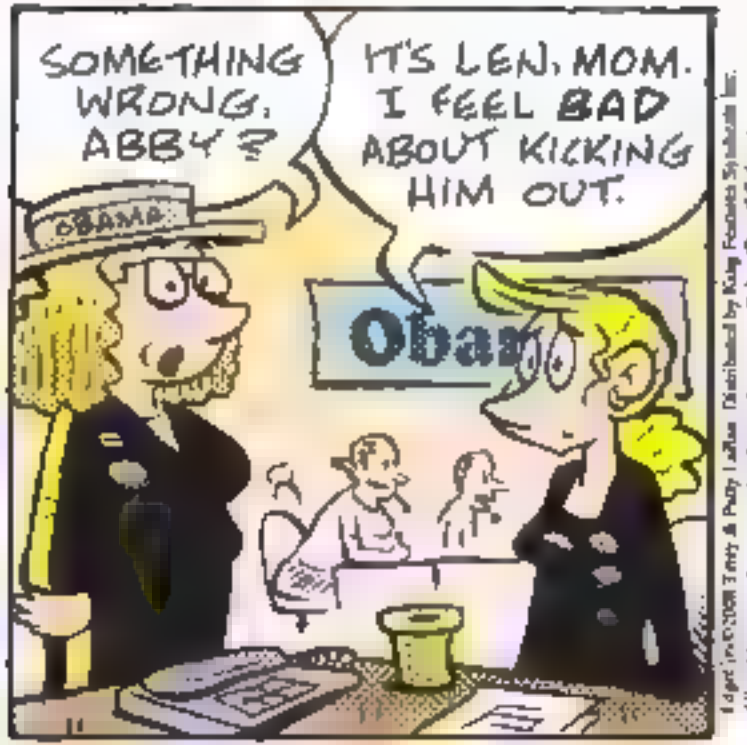


WELCOME TO McCAIN HEAD-QUARTERS, LEN. I'VE BEEN HERE SINCE YOUR MOTHER-IN-LAW KICKED ME OUT!
I NEED SOME COUCH SPACE MYSELF.

YOU'RE WELCOME TO STAY. WE CAN USE SOME HELP!
I'M NOT SURE I CAN WORK FOR McCAIN, MORRIS.

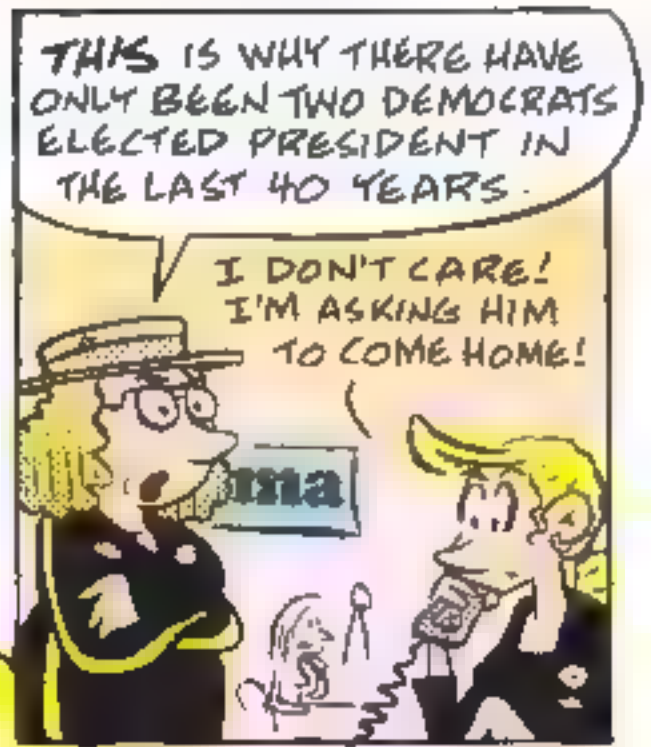
THERE ARE THINGS I LIKE ABOUT HIM. BUT I'M NOT VERY ENTHUSIASTIC.

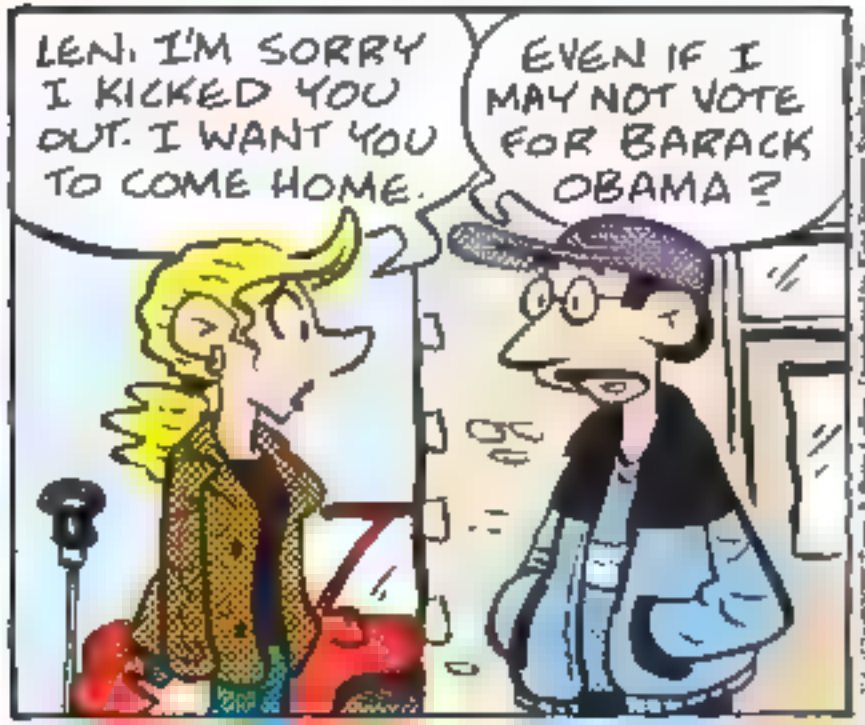
JOIN THE CLUB.
IF McCAIN WAS A TRUE CONSERVATIVE, HE'D PUSH FOR OIL DRILLING IN DOWNTOWN SAN FRANCISCO!


SOMETHING WRONG, ABBY?
IT'S LEN, MOM. I FEEL BAD ABOUT KICKING HIM OUT.
OBAMA
Obama

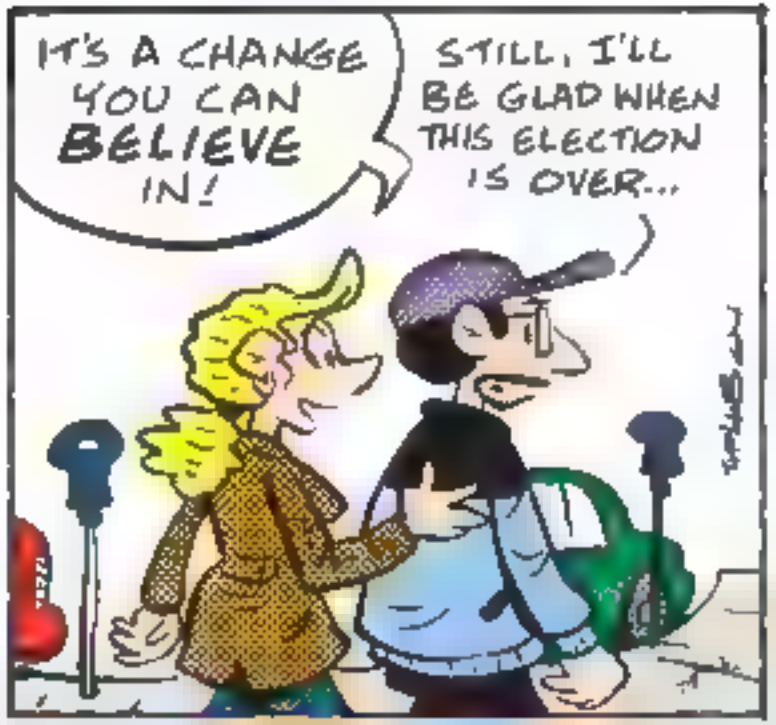
HE SAID HE MIGHT VOTE FOR McCAIN!
I KNOW.
OBAMA
10.23

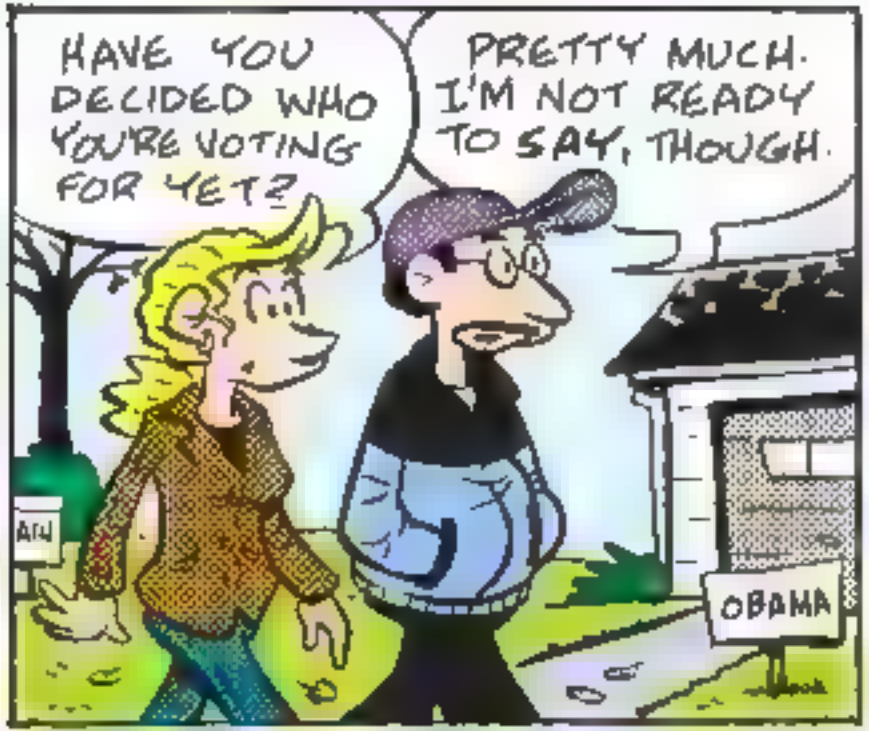
BUT WE HAVE A MARRIAGE, A FAMILY. SOME THINGS ARE MORE IMPORTANT THAN POLITICS!


THIS IS WHY THERE HAVE ONLY BEEN TWO DEMOCRATS ELECTED PRESIDENT IN THE LAST 40 YEARS.
I DON'T CARE! I'M ASKING HIM TO COME HOME!

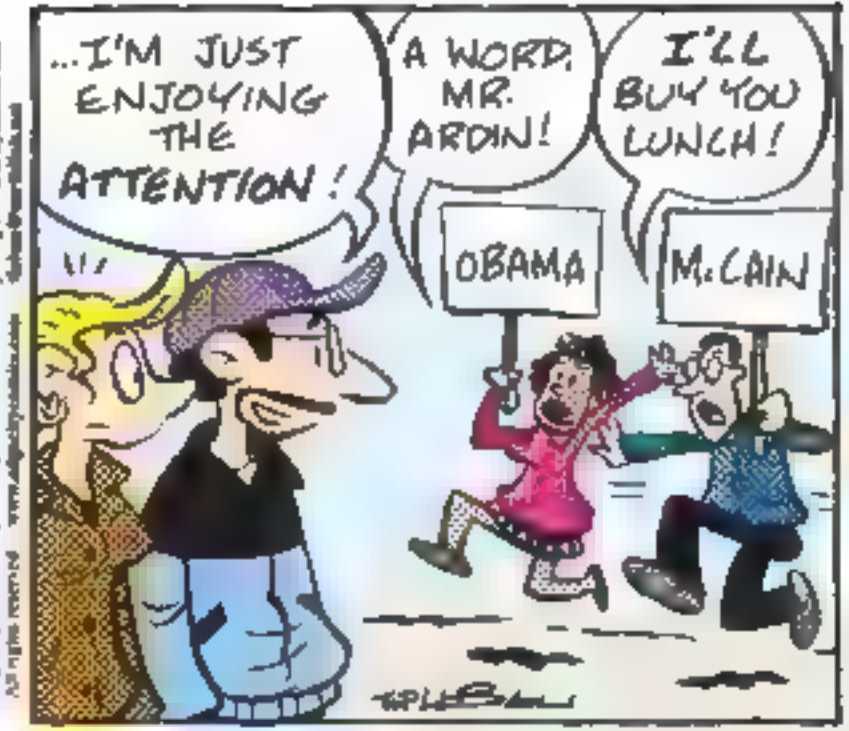

LEN, I'M SORRY I KICKED YOU OUT. I WANT YOU TO COME HOME.
EVEN IF I MAY NOT VOTE FOR BARACK OBAMA?

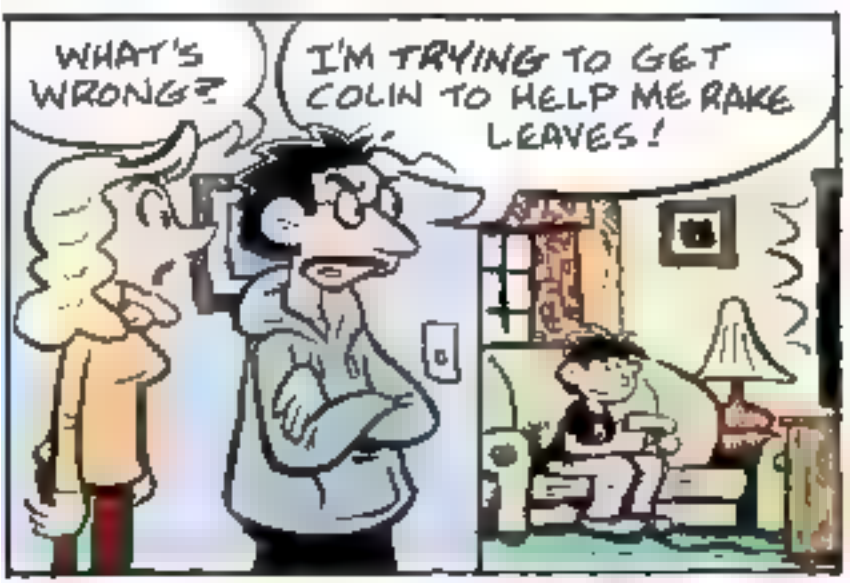
I'M TIRED OF PARTISANSHIP. WE HAVE TO REACH ACROSS THE DIVIDE AND WORK TOGETHER FOR A BETTER TOMORROW!
I'M GLAD YOU'VE CHANGED YOUR MIND.
10-24


IT'S A CHANGE YOU CAN BELIEVE IN!
STILL, I'LL BE GLAD WHEN THIS ELECTION IS OVER...

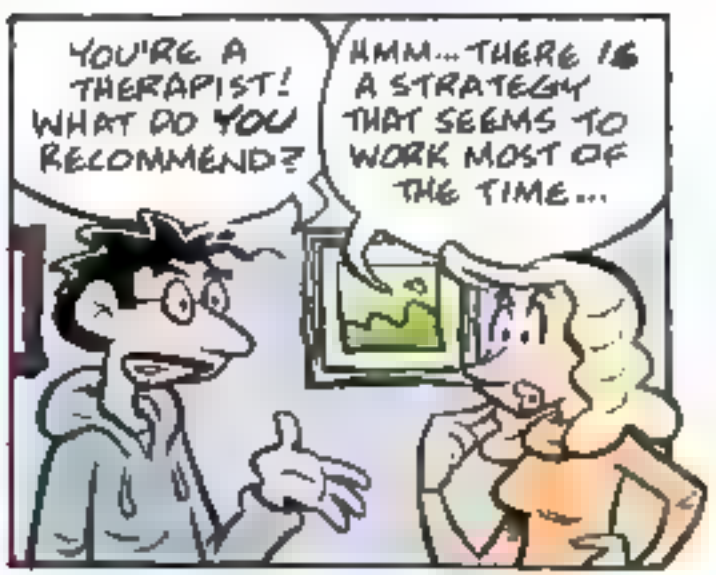

HAVE YOU DECIDED WHO YOU'RE VOTING FOR YET?
PRETTY MUCH. I'M NOT READY TO SAY, THOUGH.
OBAMA

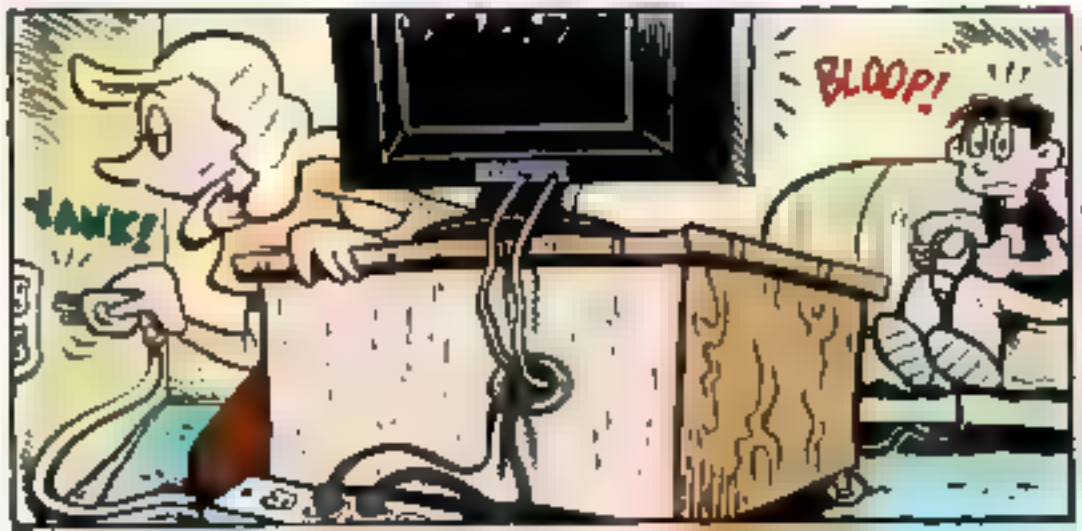
WHY? ARE YOU AFRAID I'LL GET MAD?
NO...

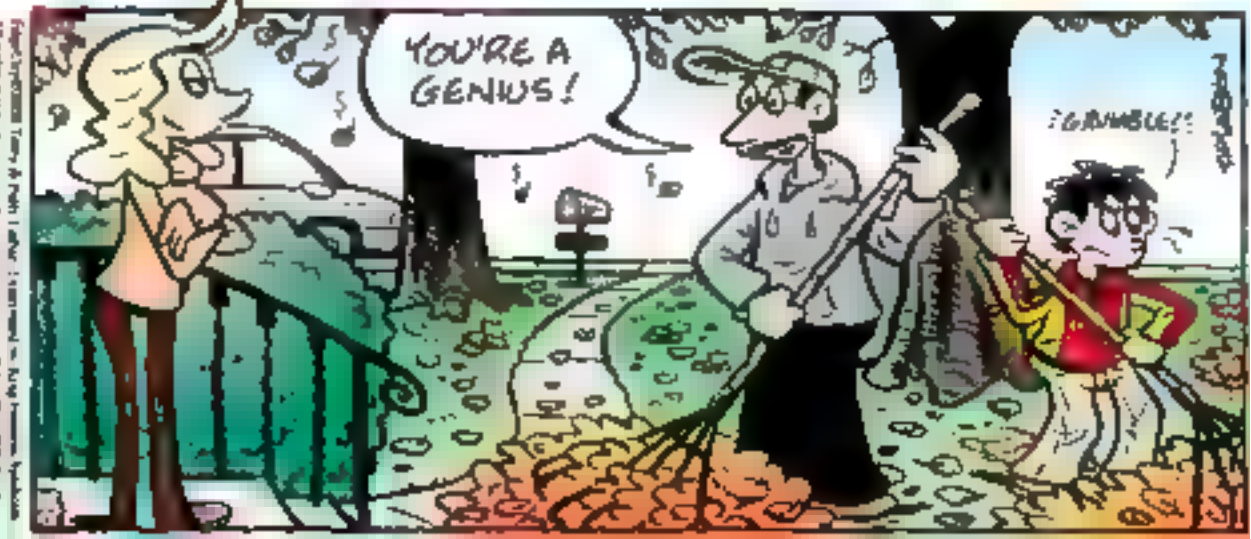

...I'M JUST ENJOYING THE ATTENTION!
A WORD, MR. ARDIN!
I'LL BUY YOU LUNCH!
OBAMA
MCCAIN


WHAT'S WRONG?
I'M TRYING TO GET COLIN TO HELP ME RAKE LEAVES!

I'VE OFFERED TO PAY HIM, THREATENED TO PUNISH HIM, AND EVERYTHING IN BETWEEN. ALL HE WANTS TO DO IS PLAY VIDEO GAMES!


YOU'RE A THERAPIST! WHAT DO YOU RECOMMEND?
HMM... THERE IS A STRATEGY THAT SEEMS TO WORK MOST OF THE TIME...


TANK!
BLOOP!


YOU'RE A GENIUS!
GRUMBLE!

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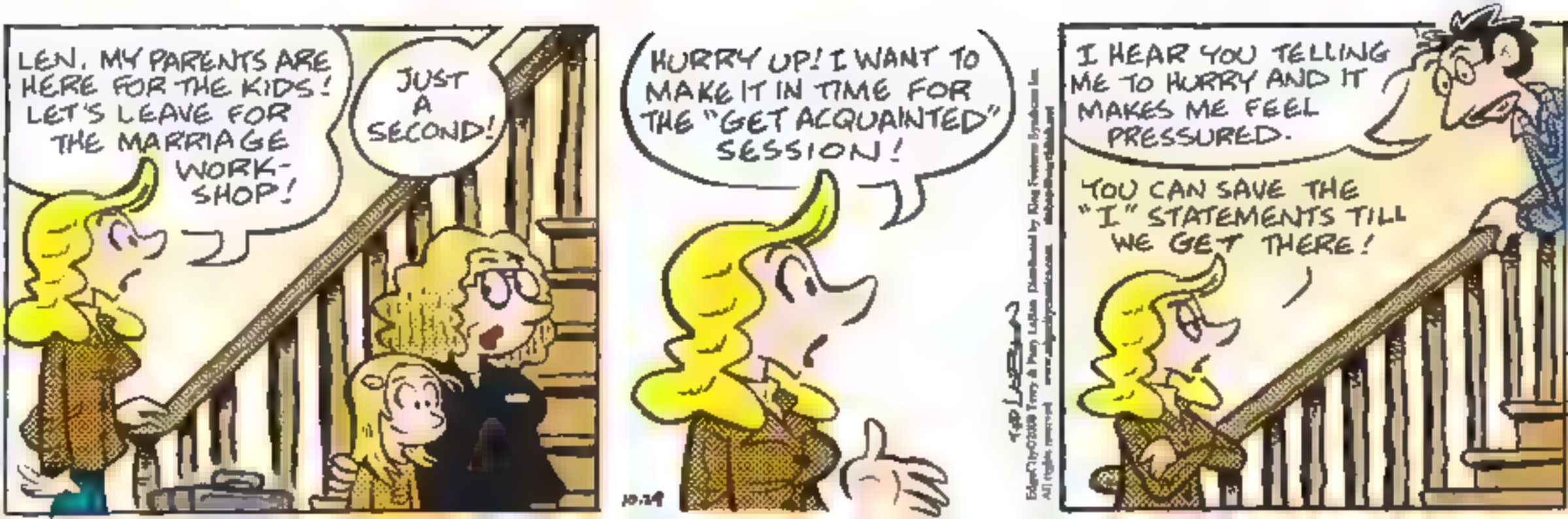
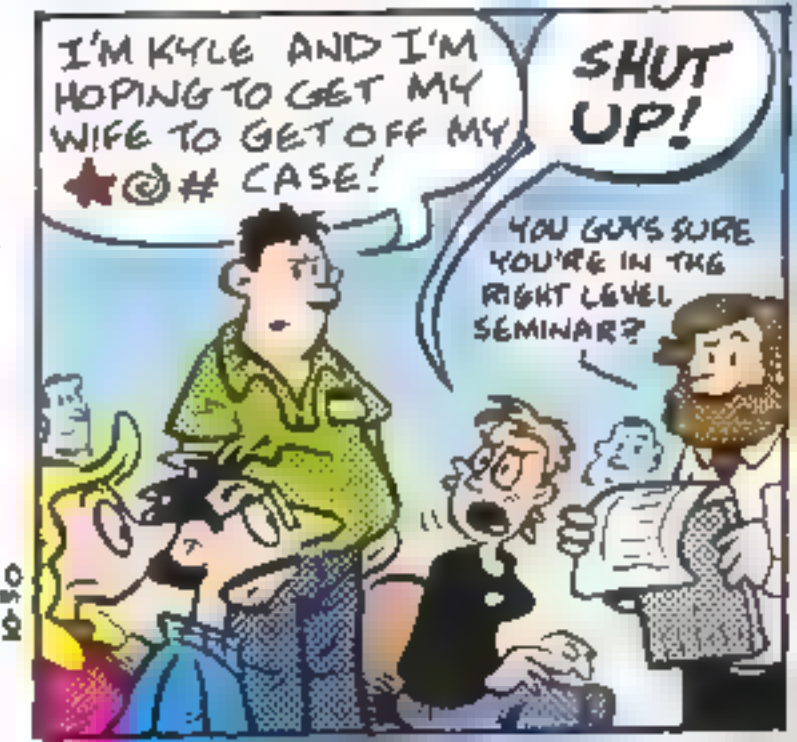
LEN, TO GET CERTIFIED TO LEAD MARRIAGE WORKSHOPS, I NEED TO PARTICIPATE IN ONE WITH YOU.
I REALLY DON'T WANT TO, ABBY!
WHY? WE'VE DONE THINGS LIKE THAT BEFORE.
YEAH... AND DO YOU REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED LAST TIME?
THE FACILITATOR KEPT USING ME FOR THE EXAMPLES OF WHAT NOT TO DO!
YOU'VE MADE LOTS OF PROGRESS SINCE THEN!


LEN, MY PARENTS ARE HERE FOR THE KIDS! LET'S LEAVE FOR THE MARRIAGE WORK-SHOP!
JUST A SECOND!
HURRY UP! I WANT TO MAKE IT IN TIME FOR THE "GET ACQUAINTED" SESSION!
10-24
I HEAR YOU TELLING ME TO HURRY AND IT MAKES ME FEEL PRESSURED.
YOU CAN SAVE THE "I" STATEMENTS TILL WE GET THERE!

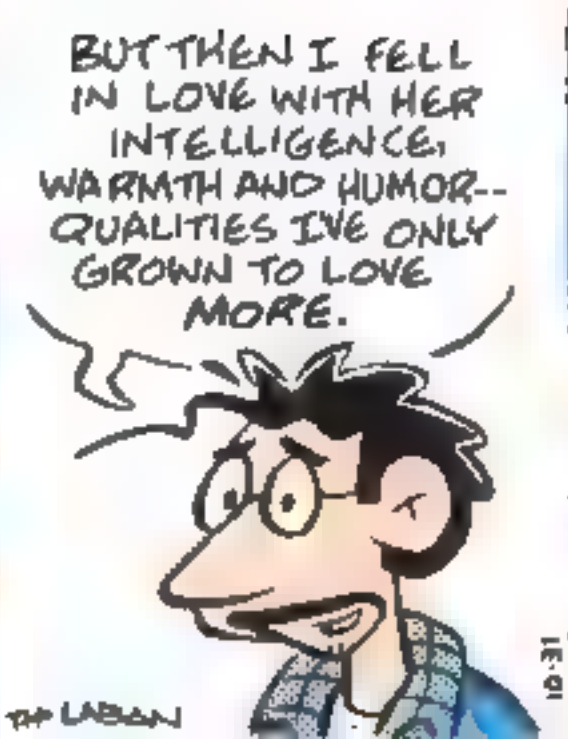
WELCOME TO THE MARRIAGE WORKSHOP! I'M CHUCK AND THIS IS MY WIFE, MARCIA. WE'LL BE YOUR FACILITATORS.

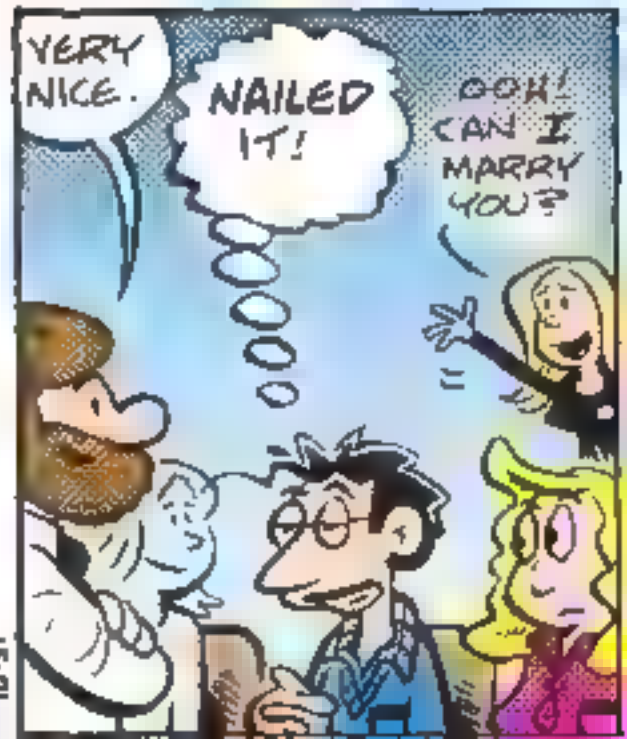
I'D LIKE TO START WITH EVERYONE INTRODUCING THEMSELVES AND STATING THEIR GOALS FOR THE WEEKEND.

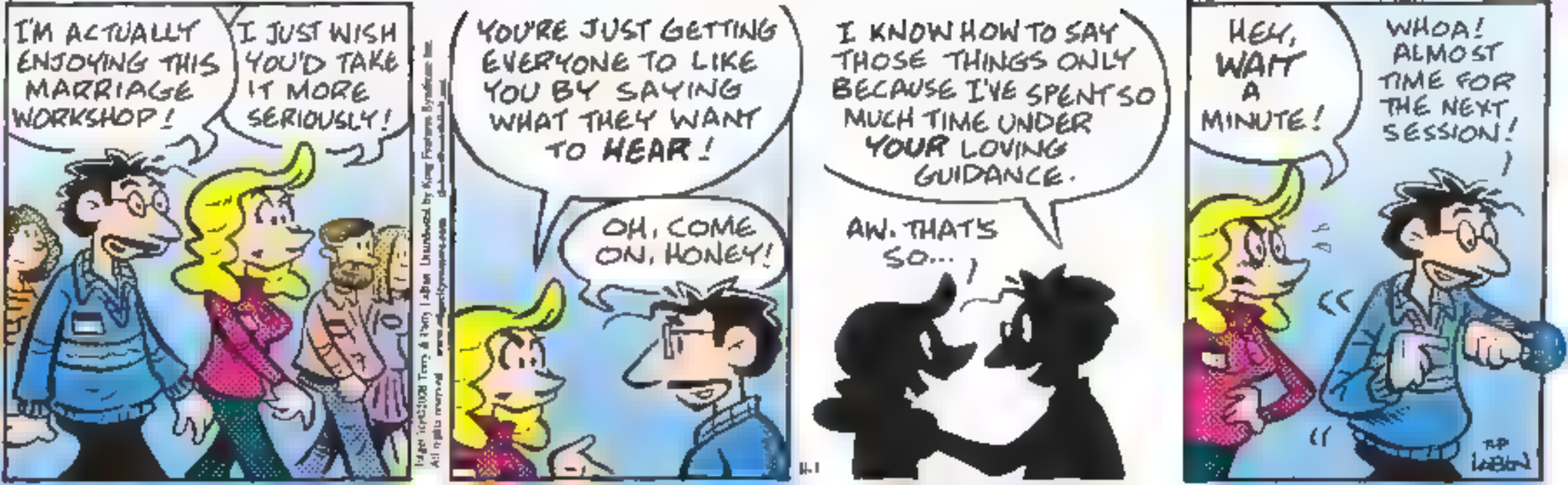

I'M KYLE AND I'M HOPING TO GET MY WIFE TO GET OFF MY ★◎# CASE!
SHUT UP!
YOU GUYS SURE YOU'RE IN THE RIGHT LEVEL SEMINAR?

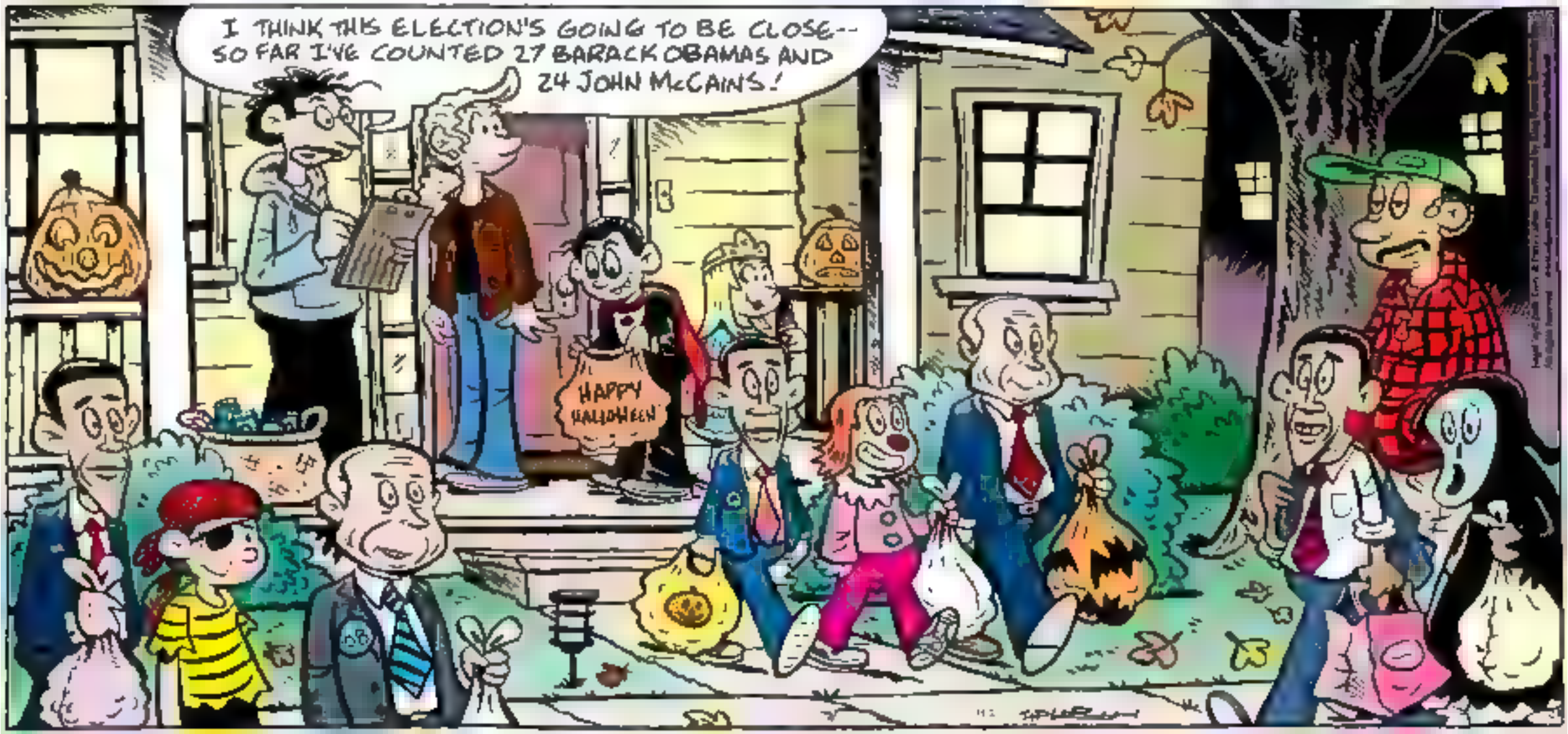
I'D LIKE TO START THIS MARRIAGE WORKSHOP WITH AN EXERCISE.
TRY TO REMEMBER WHAT ATTRACTED YOU TO YOUR SPOUSE IN THE FIRST PLACE.
CRUCK

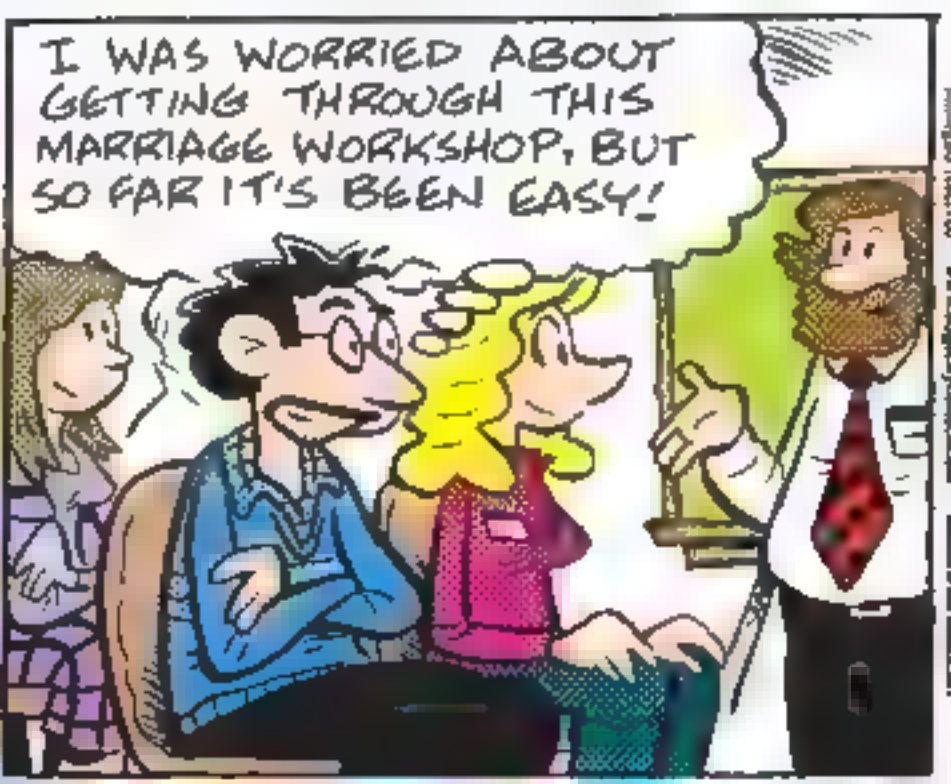
LEN?
AT FIRST IT WAS HER BEAUTIFUL HAIR AND EYES.

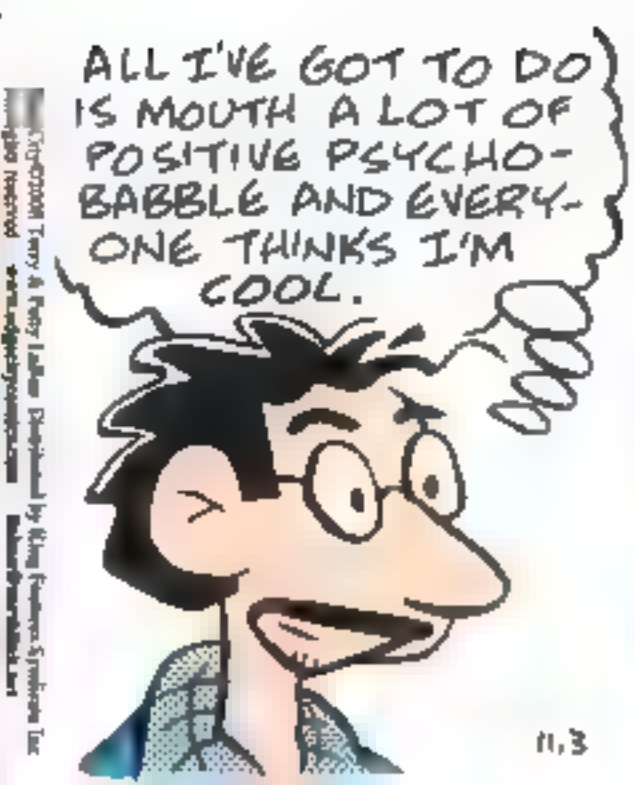

BUT THEN I FELL IN LOVE WITH HER INTELLIGENCE, WARMTH AND HUMOR-- QUALITIES I'VE ONLY GROWN TO LOVE MORE.
TOM LABAN


VERY NICE.
NAILED IT!
OOH! CAN I MARRY YOU?
10-31

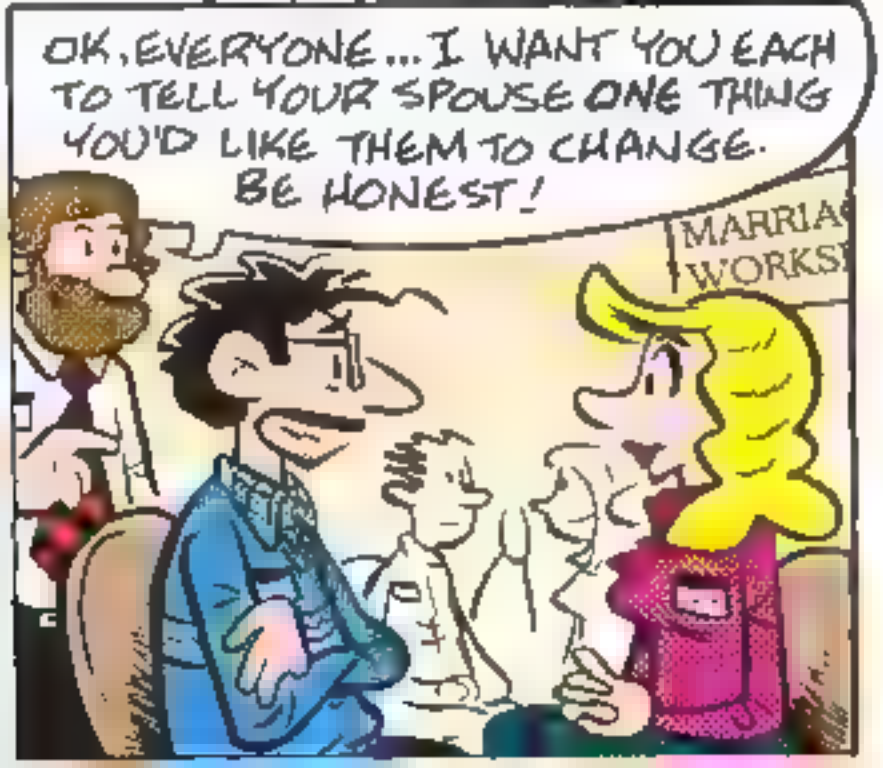

I'M ACTUALLY ENJOYING THIS MARRIAGE WORKSHOP!
I JUST WISH YOU'D TAKE IT MORE SERIOUSLY!
YOU'RE JUST GETTING EVERYONE TO LIKE YOU BY SAYING WHAT THEY WANT TO HEAR!
OH, COME ON, HONEY!
I KNOW HOW TO SAY THOSE THINGS ONLY BECAUSE I'VE SPENT SO MUCH TIME UNDER YOUR LOVING GUIDANCE.
AW. THAT'S SO...
HEY, WAIT A MINUTE!
WHOA! ALMOST TIME FOR THE NEXT SESSION!


I THINK THIS ELECTION'S GOING TO BE CLOSE-- SO FAR I'VE COUNTED 27 BARACK OBAMAS AND 24 JOHN McCAINS!
HAPPY HALLOWEEN


I WAS WORRIED ABOUT GETTING THROUGH THIS MARRIAGE WORKSHOP, BUT SO FAR IT'S BEEN EASY!

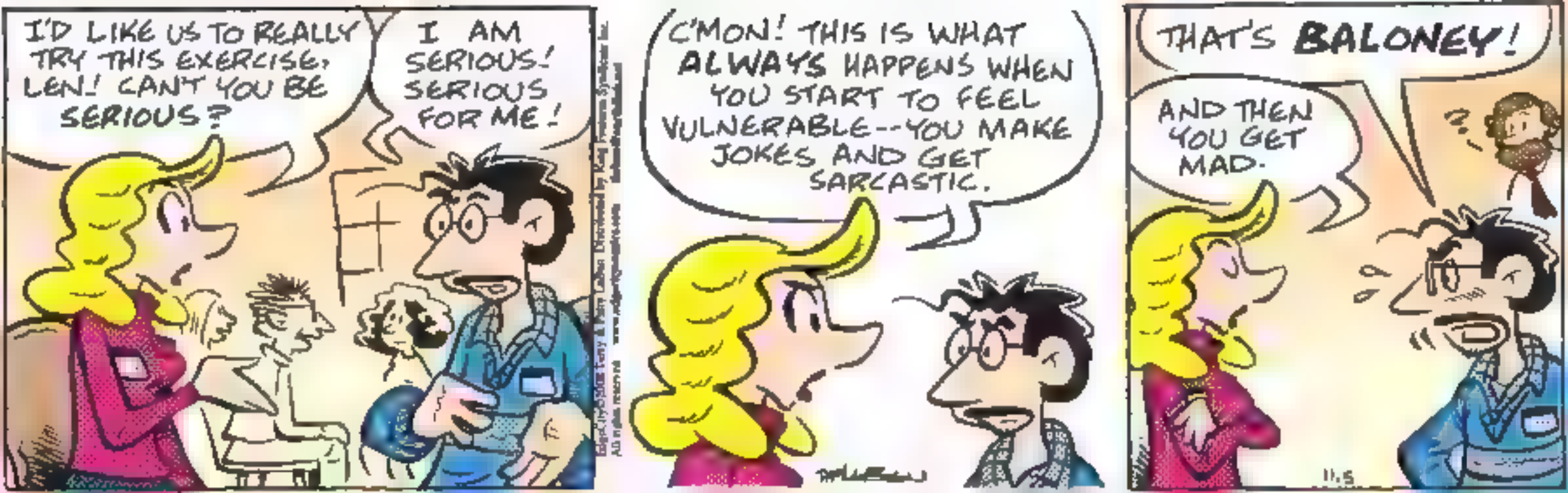

ALL I'VE GOT TO DO IS MOUTH A LOT OF POSITIVE PSYCHO-BABBLE AND EVERY-ONE THINKS I'M COOL.
11.3

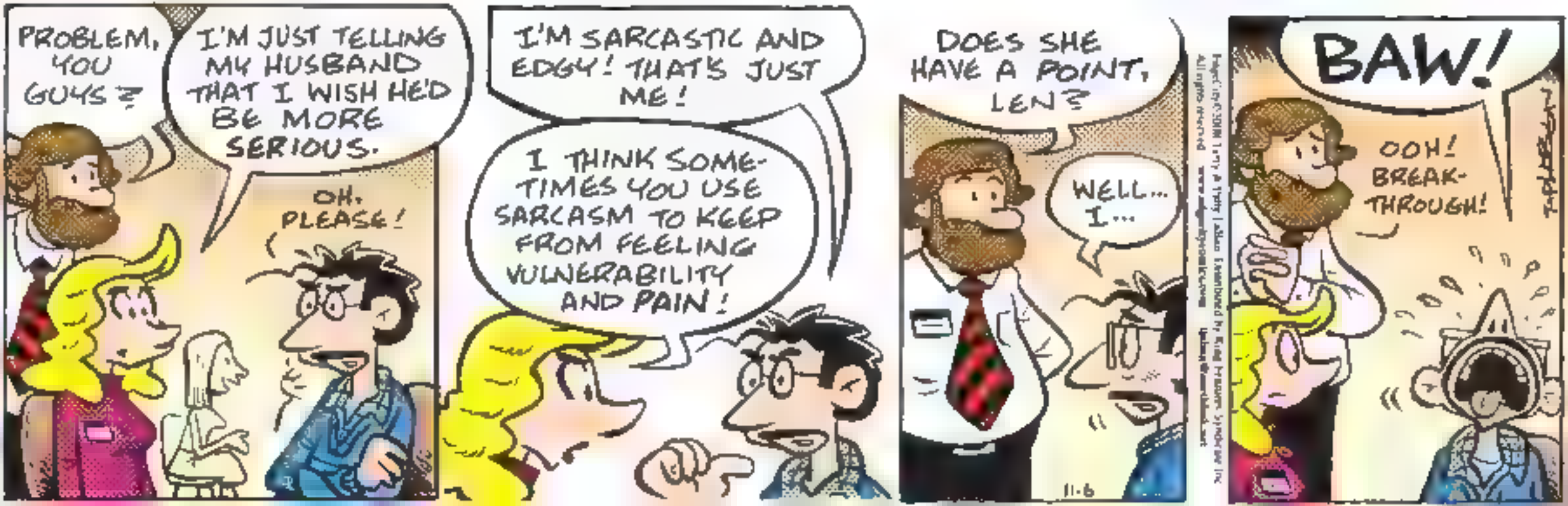
OK, EVERYBODY--WE'RE GOING TO SPEND SOME TIME WORKING ONE-ON-ONE WITH OUR SPOUSES.
UH-OH!

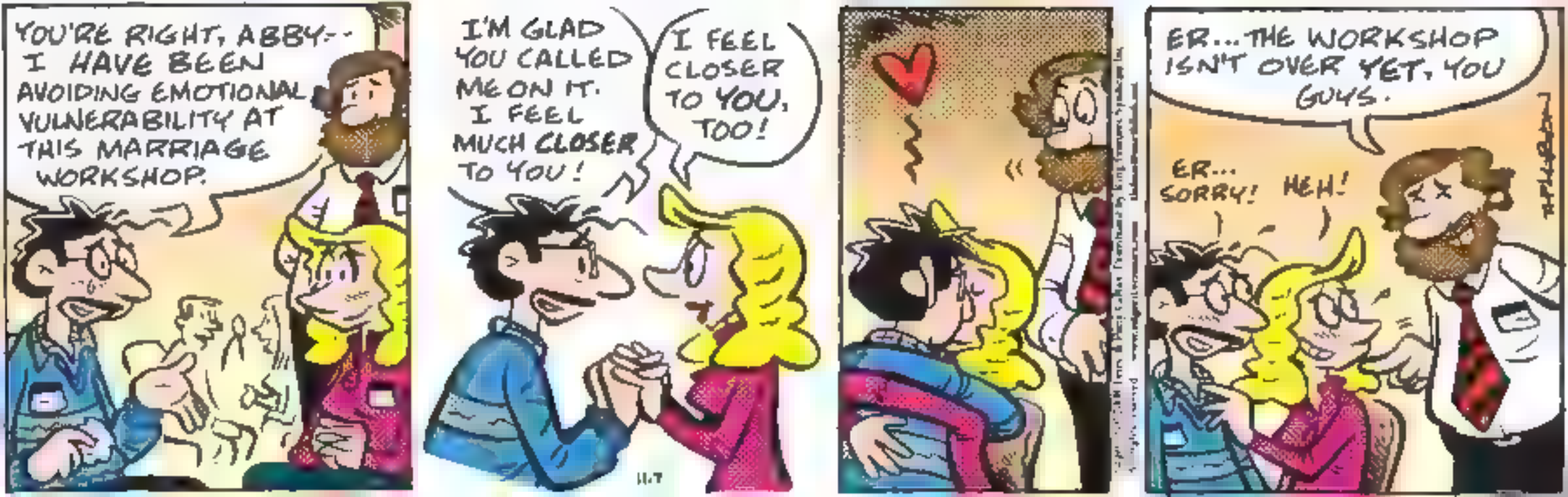

OK, EVERYONE... I WANT YOU EACH TO TELL YOUR SPOUSE ONE THING YOU'D LIKE THEM TO CHANGE. BE HONEST!
MARRIA
WORKS

HEH! LET'S SEE... I DON'T LIKE THAT YOU MAKE ME GO TO MARRIAGE WORKSHOPS!
YOUR TURN.
11.4

I DON'T LIKE THAT YOU DON'T KNOW WHEN TO BE SERIOUS!
HEY!


I'D LIKE US TO REALLY TRY THIS EXERCISE, LEN! CAN'T YOU BE SERIOUS?
I AM SERIOUS! SERIOUS FOR ME!
C'MON! THIS IS WHAT ALWAYS HAPPENS WHEN YOU START TO FEEL VULNERABLE--YOU MAKE JOKES AND GET SARCASTIC.
THAT'S BALONEY!
AND THEN YOU GET MAD.


PROBLEM, YOU GUYS?
I'M JUST TELLING MY HUSBAND THAT I WISH HE'D BE MORE SERIOUS.
OH, PLEASE!
I'M SARCASTIC AND EDGY! THAT'S JUST ME!
I THINK SOMETIMES YOU USE SARCASM TO KEEP FROM FEELING VULNERABILITY AND PAIN!
DOES SHE HAVE A POINT, LEN?
WELL... I...
11-6
BAW!
OOH! BREAK-THROUGH!


YOU'RE RIGHT, ABBY-- I HAVE BEEN AVOIDING EMOTIONAL VULNERABILITY AT THIS MARRIAGE WORKSHOP.
I'M GLAD YOU CALLED ME ON IT. I FEEL MUCH CLOSER TO YOU!
I FEEL CLOSER TO YOU, TOO!
ER...THE WORKSHOP ISN'T OVER YET, YOU GUYS.
ER... SORRY! HEH!

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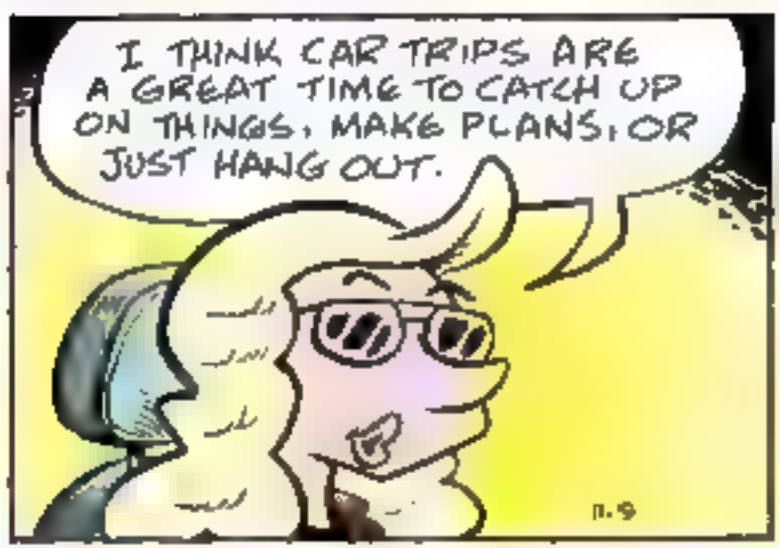
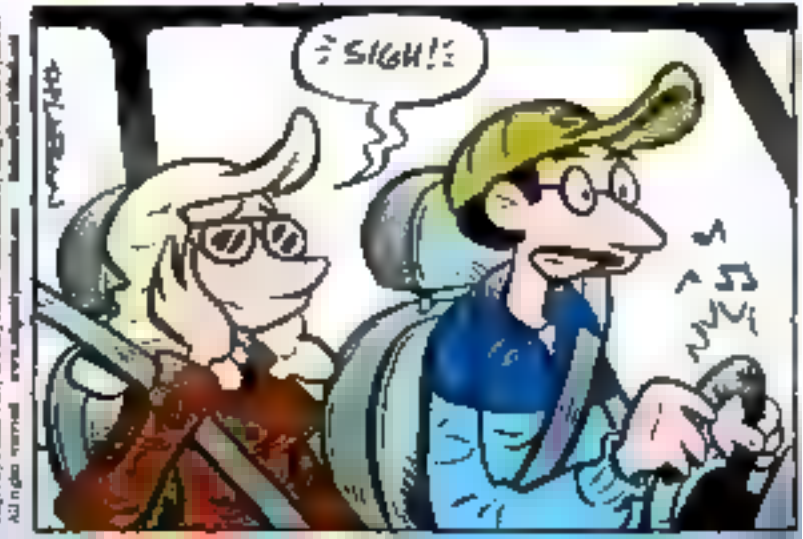
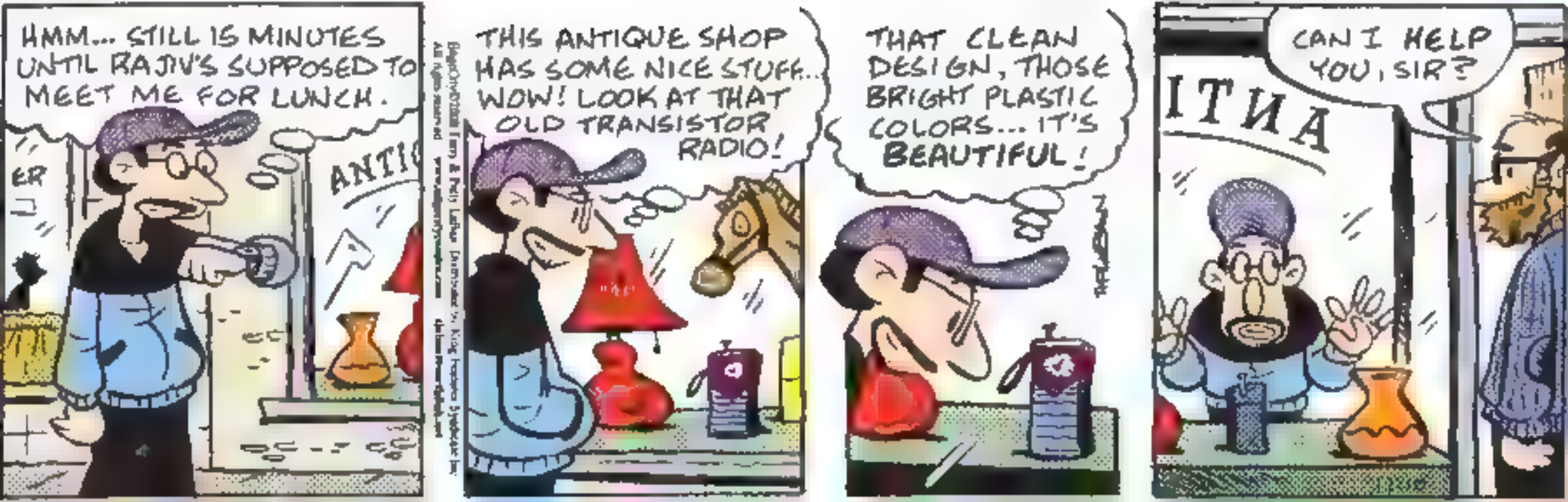
I'VE NOTICED THAT YOU DON'T LIKE TO TALK MUCH WHEN YOU'RE DRIVING.
OH YEAH?

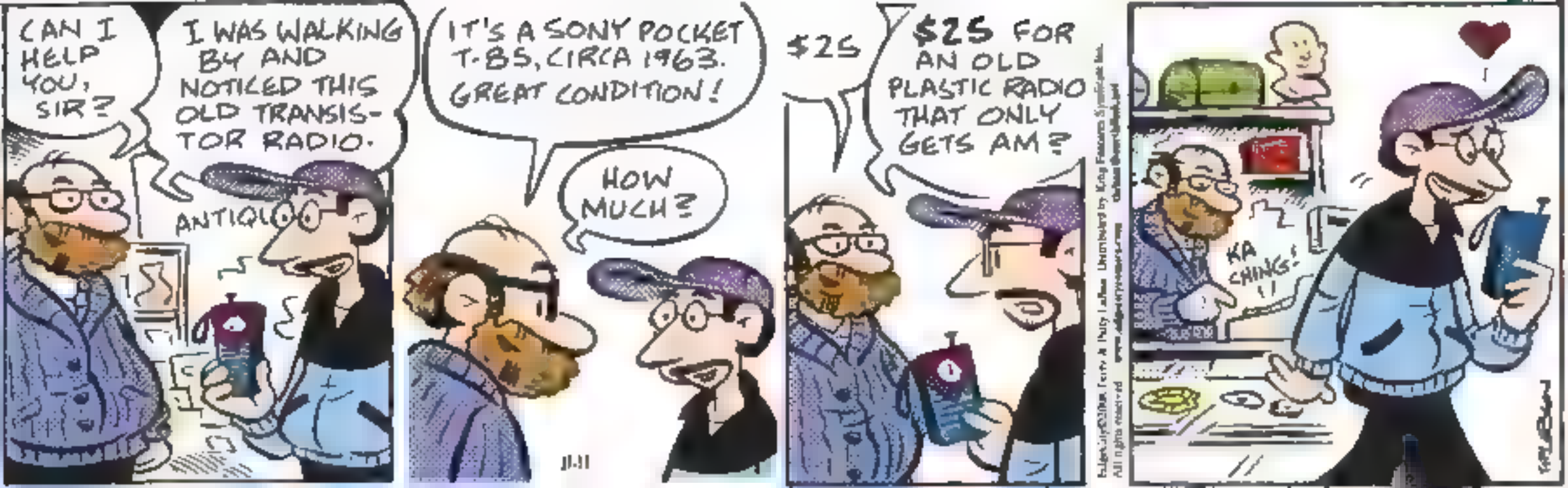

I THINK CAR TRIPS ARE A GREAT TIME TO CATCH UP ON THINGS, MAKE PLANS, OR JUST HANG OUT.

BUT WHEN YOU'RE AT THE WHEEL, YOU NEVER SEEM TO RESPOND TO ANYTHING I SAY WITH MORE THAN A COUPLE WORDS!

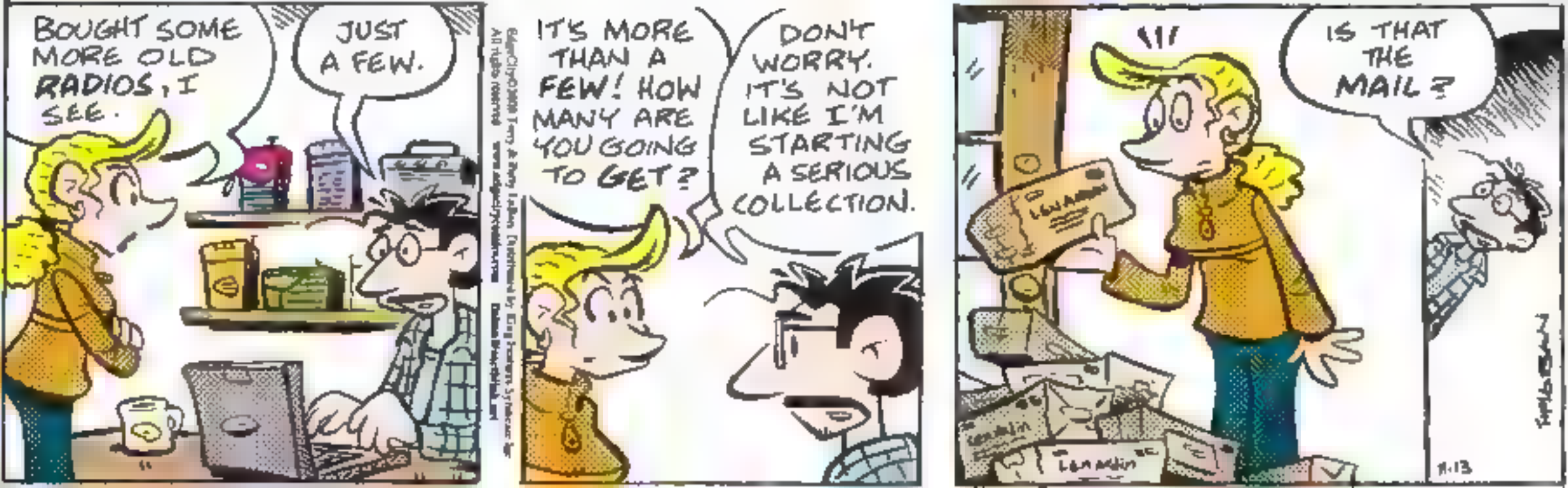
GUESS NOT.

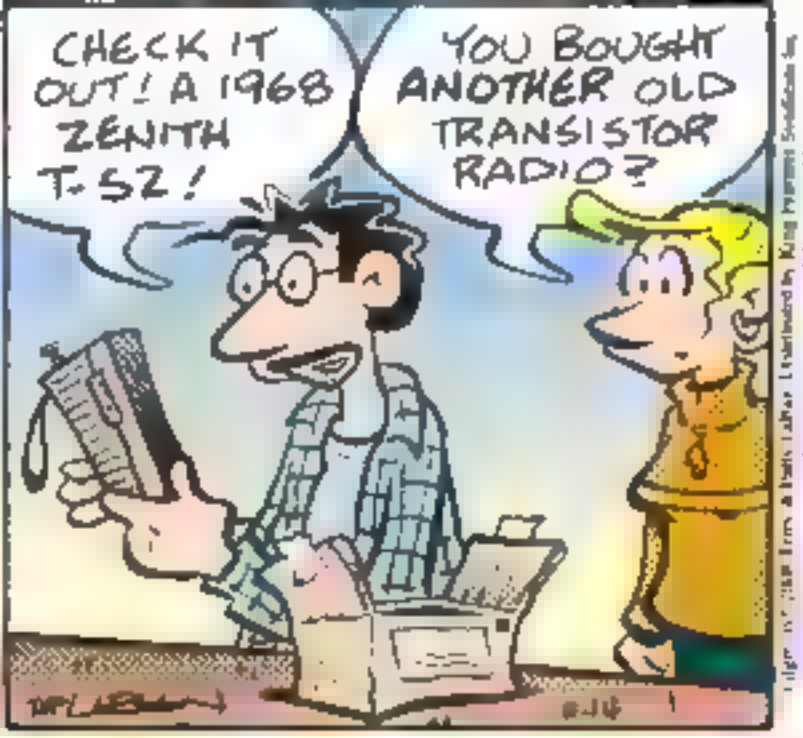

SIGH!


HMM... STILL 15 MINUTES UNTIL RAJIV'S SUPPOSED TO MEET ME FOR LUNCH.
ER
ANTI
THIS ANTIQUE SHOP HAS SOME NICE STUFF... WOW! LOOK AT THAT OLD TRANSISTOR RADIO!
THAT CLEAN DESIGN, THOSE BRIGHT PLASTIC COLORS... IT'S BEAUTIFUL!
ITHA
CAN I HELP YOU, SIR?

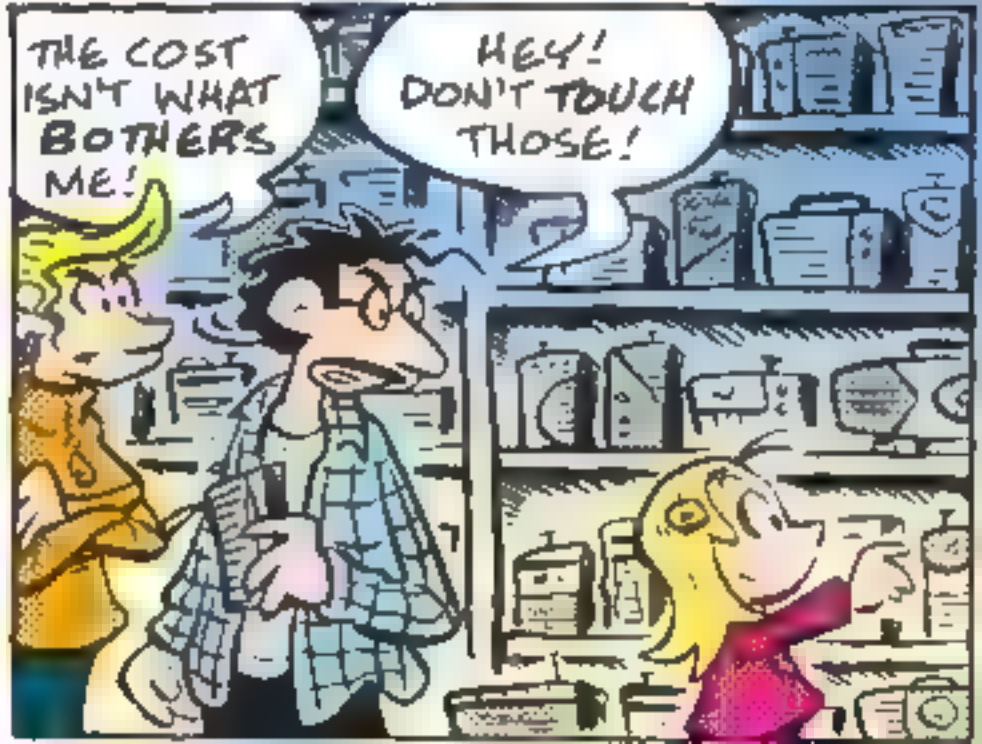

CAN I HELP YOU, SIR?
I WAS WALKING BY AND NOTICED THIS OLD TRANSISTOR RADIO.
ANTIQUE
IT'S A SONY POCKET T-85, CIRCA 1963. GREAT CONDITION!
HOW MUCH?
$25
$25 FOR AN OLD PLASTIC RADIO THAT ONLY GETS AM?
KA CHING!

WHAT'S THIS?
AN OLD TRANSISTOR RADIO I BOUGHT TODAY AT AN ANTIQUE SHOP.
SINCE WHEN ARE YOU INTO OLD RADIOS?
I JUST LIKED THIS ONE.
JUST BECAUSE I BOUGHT ONE OLD RADIO DOESN'T MEAN I'M GOING TO BUY MORE!
WHATEVER!
I WONDER IF THERE ARE ANY INTERESTING RADIOS ON EBAY RIGHT NOW...


BOUGHT SOME MORE OLD RADIOS, I SEE.
JUST A FEW.
IT'S MORE THAN A FEW! HOW MANY ARE YOU GOING TO GET?
DON'T WORRY. IT'S NOT LIKE I'M STARTING A SERIOUS COLLECTION.
IS THAT THE MAIL?
1-13


CHECK IT OUT! A 1968 ZENITH T-52!
YOU BOUGHT ANOTHER OLD TRANSISTOR RADIO?

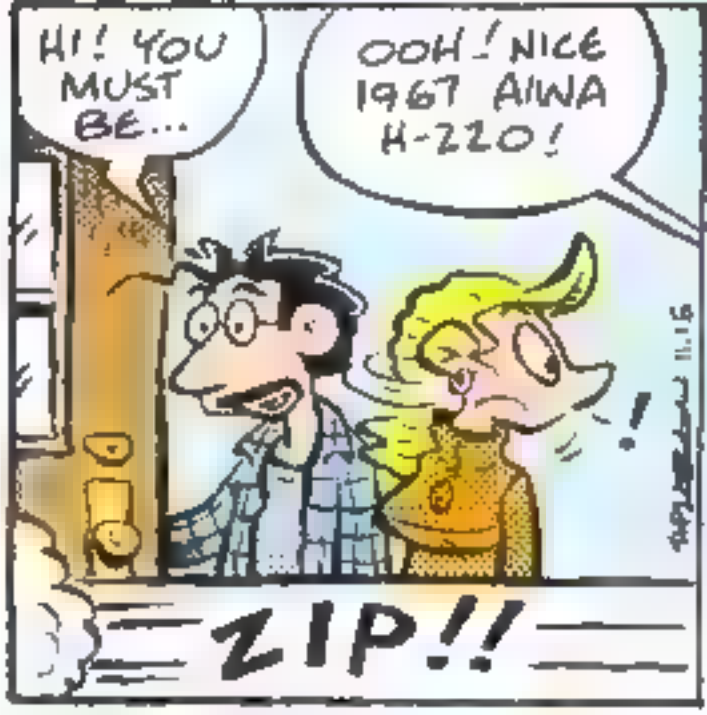
HOW MANY OF THOSE THINGS DO YOU NEED?
WHAT'S IT MATTER? I LIKE THEM AND THEY DON'T COST MUCH.


THE COST ISN'T WHAT BOTHERS ME!
HEY! DON'T TOUCH THOSE!

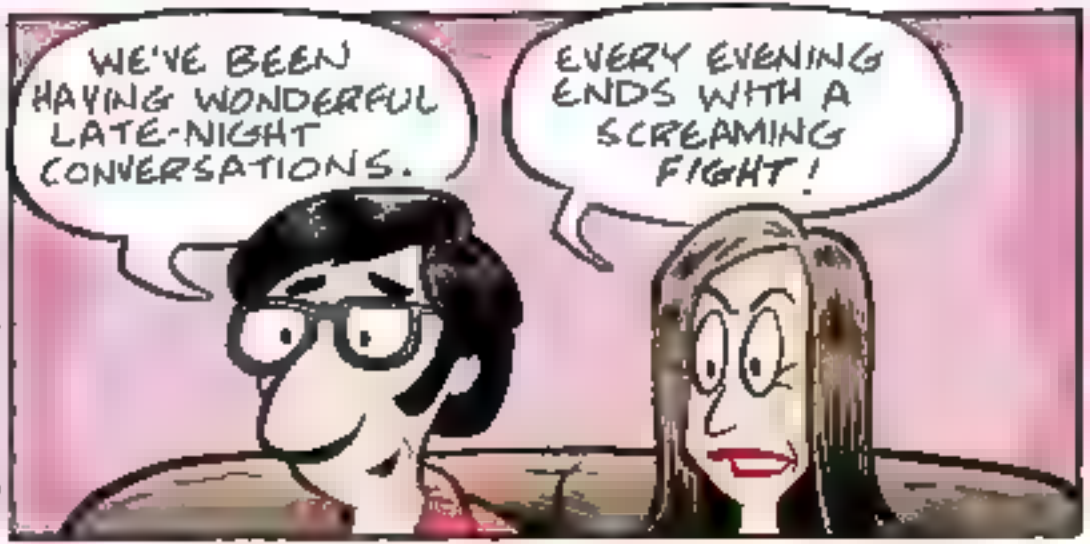
THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL OLD RADIO CLUB IS COMING OVER TO-NIGHT.
OH YEAH?

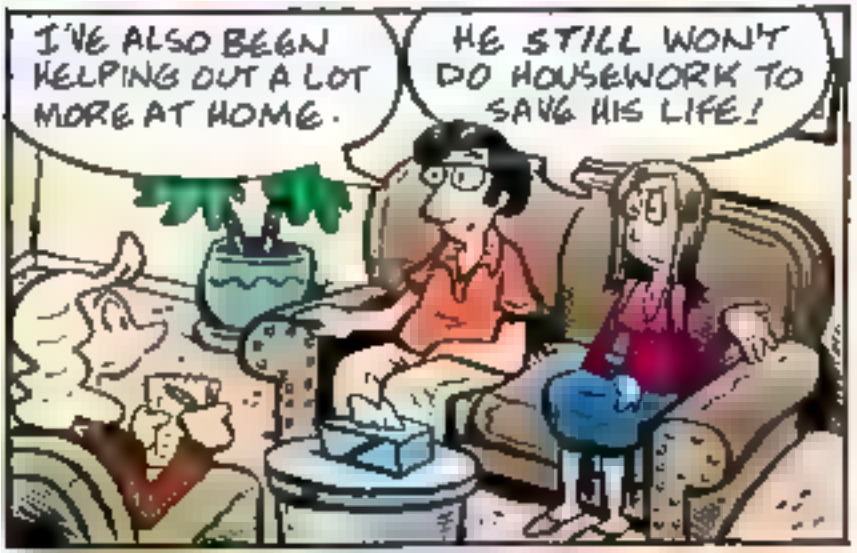
I'M THINKING OF JOINING, AND HE WANTS TO CHECK OUT MY COLLECTION.
YOU WANNA PUT OUT SOME SNACKS?

IT'S OK... I DON'T THINK HE'LL BE INTER-ESTED IN MUCH BESIDES MY RADIOS.
DING DONG!

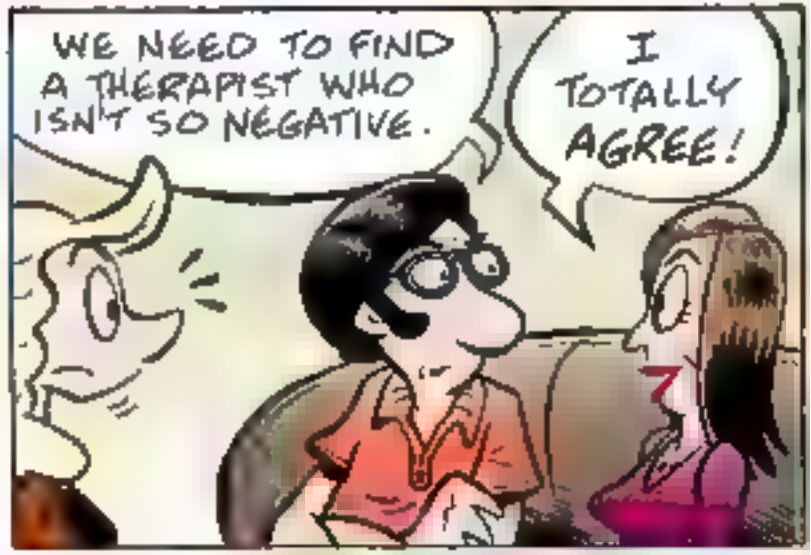

HI! YOU MUST BE...
OOH! NICE 1967 AIWA H-220!
ZIP!!

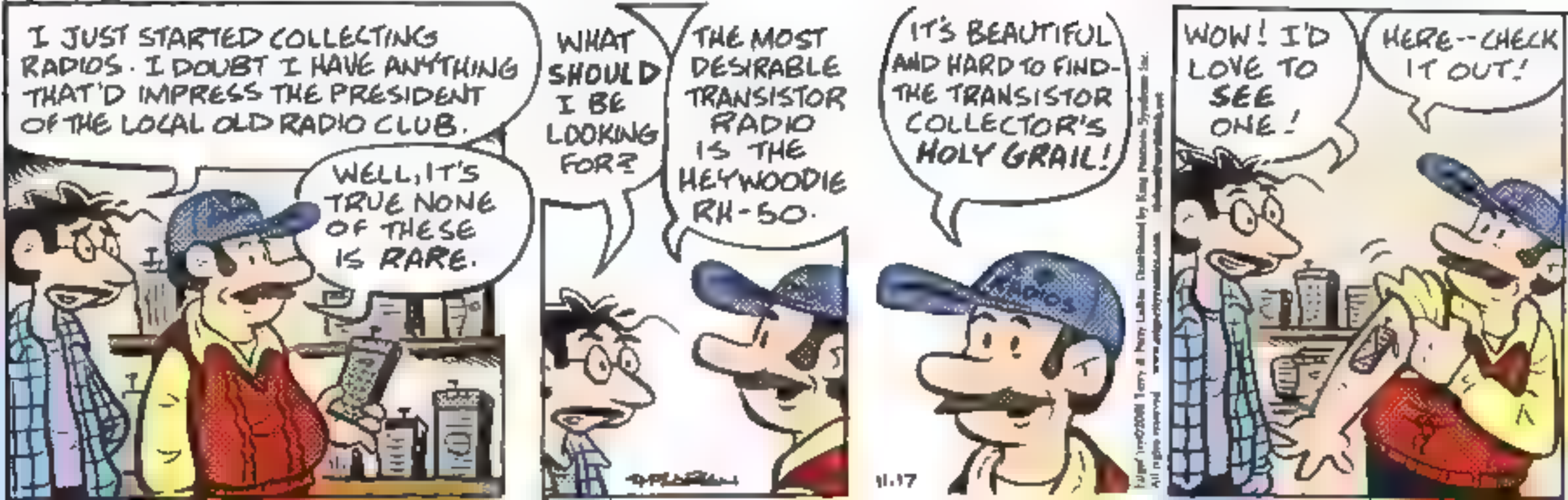
SO, SAM AND BETH-- HOW HAVE YOU BEEN GETTING ALONG WITH EACH OTHER LATELY?
GREAT!
AWFUL!

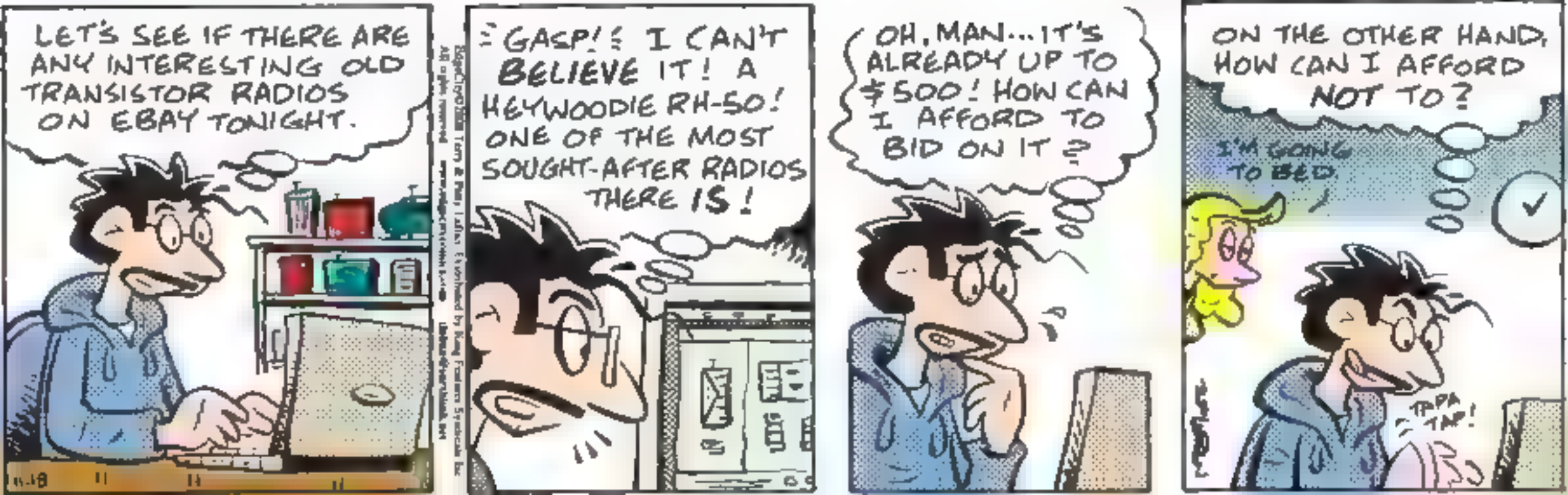

WE'VE BEEN HAVING WONDERFUL LATE-NIGHT CONVERSATIONS.
EVERY EVENING ENDS WITH A SCREAMING FIGHT!

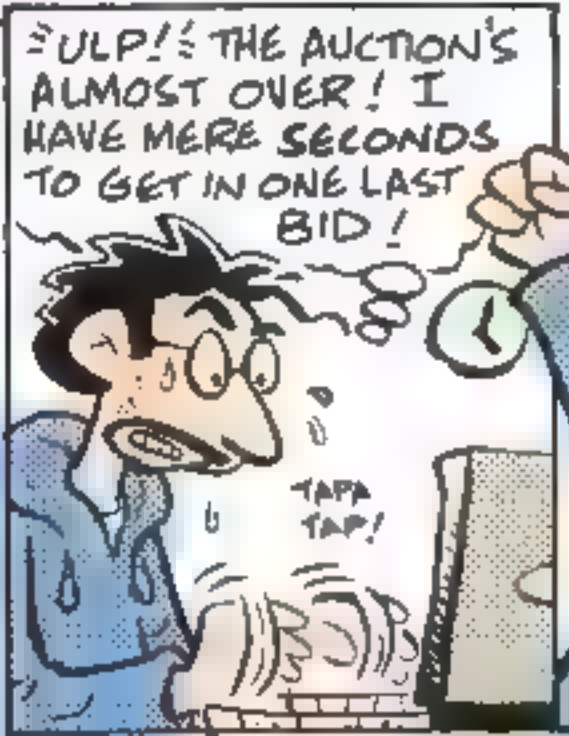

I'VE ALSO BEEN HELPING OUT A LOT MORE AT HOME.
HE STILL WON'T DO HOUSEWORK TO SAVE HIS LIFE!

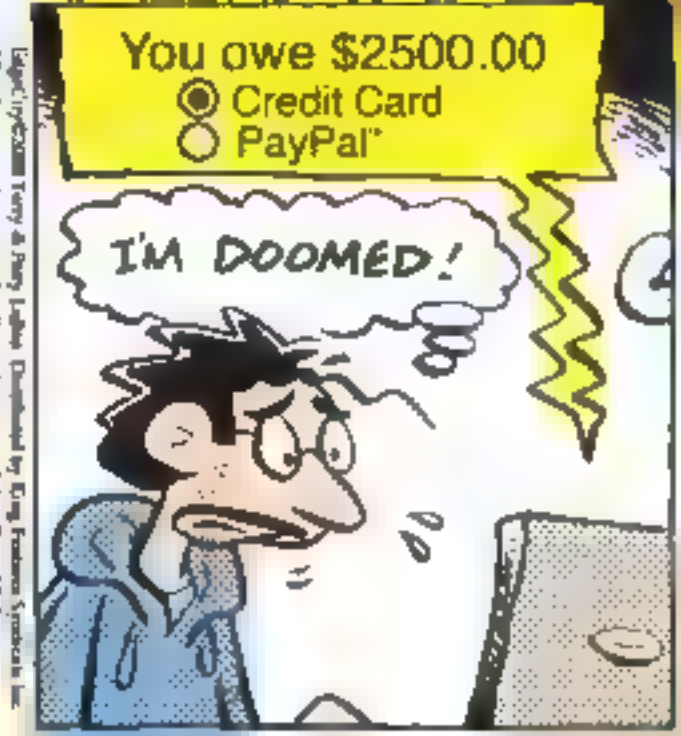
BOY...IT SEEMS LIKE YOU TWO DON'T SEE ANYTHING THE SAME WAY!


WE NEED TO FIND A THERAPIST WHO ISN'T SO NEGATIVE.
I TOTALLY AGREE!


I JUST STARTED COLLECTING RADIOS. I DOUBT I HAVE ANYTHING THAT'D IMPRESS THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL OLD RADIO CLUB.
WELL, IT'S TRUE NONE OF THESE IS RARE.
WHAT SHOULD I BE LOOKING FOR?
THE MOST DESIRABLE TRANSISTOR RADIO IS THE HEYWOODIE RH-50.
IT'S BEAUTIFUL AND HARD TO FIND- THE TRANSISTOR COLLECTOR'S HOLY GRAIL!
11.17
WOW! I'D LOVE TO SEE ONE!
HERE--CHECK IT OUT!


LET'S SEE IF THERE ARE ANY INTERESTING OLD TRANSISTOR RADIOS ON EBAY TONIGHT.
GASP! I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! A HEYWOODIE RH-50! ONE OF THE MOST SOUGHT-AFTER RADIOS THERE IS!
OH, MAN... IT'S ALREADY UP TO $500! HOW CAN I AFFORD TO BID ON IT?
ON THE OTHER HAND, HOW CAN I AFFORD NOT TO?
I'M GOING TO BED.
TAP TAP!





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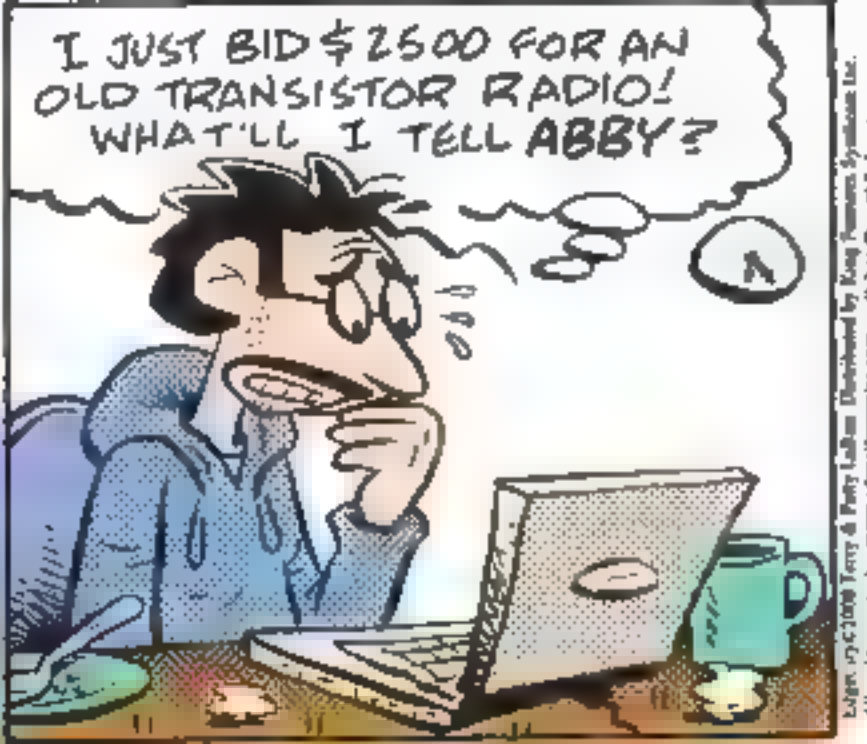
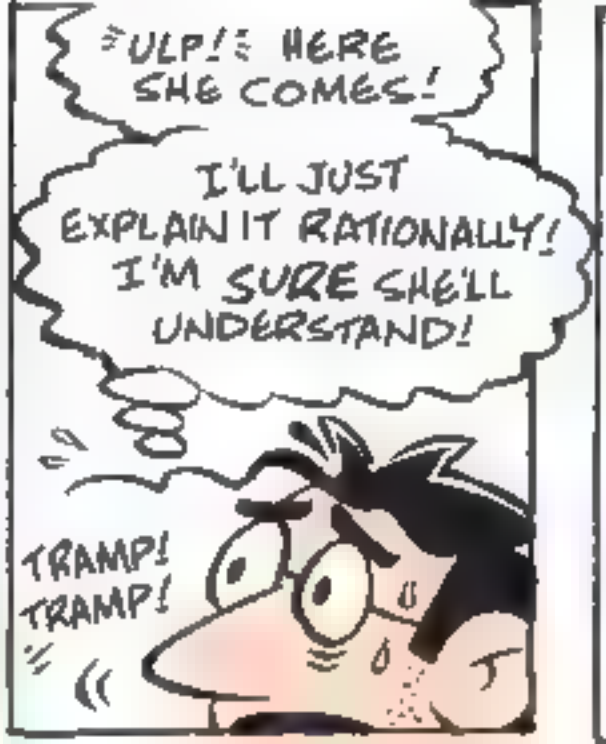
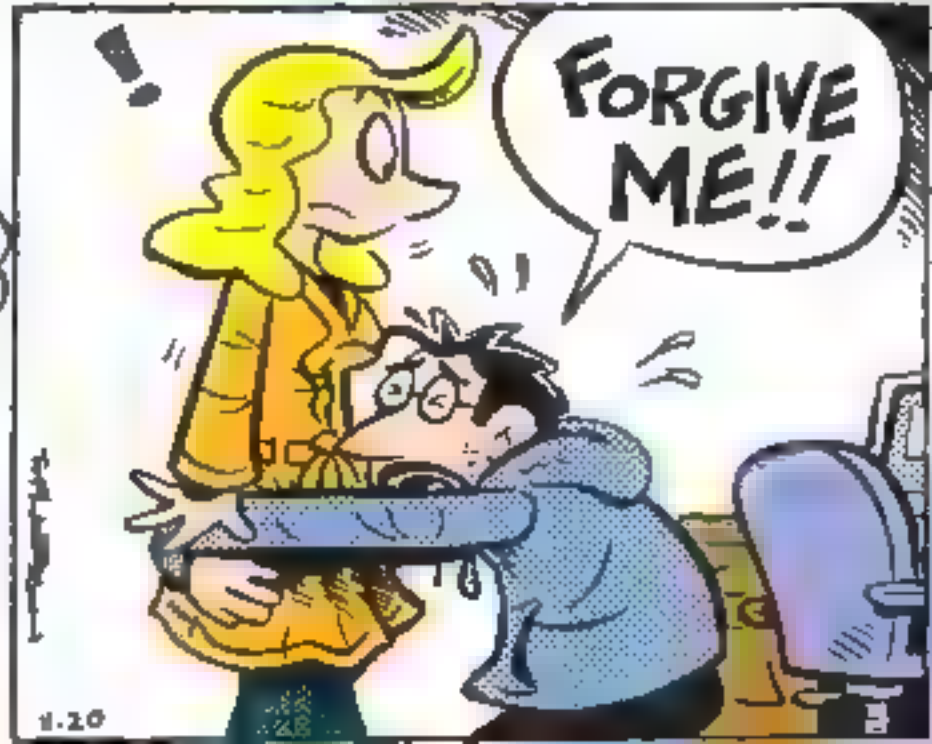

I JUST BID $2500 FOR AN OLD TRANSISTOR RADIO! WHAT'LL I TELL ABBY?


ULP! HERE SHE COMES!
I'LL JUST EXPLAIN IT RATIONALLY! I'M SURE SHE'LL UNDERSTAND!
TRAMP! TRAMP!


FORGIVE ME!!

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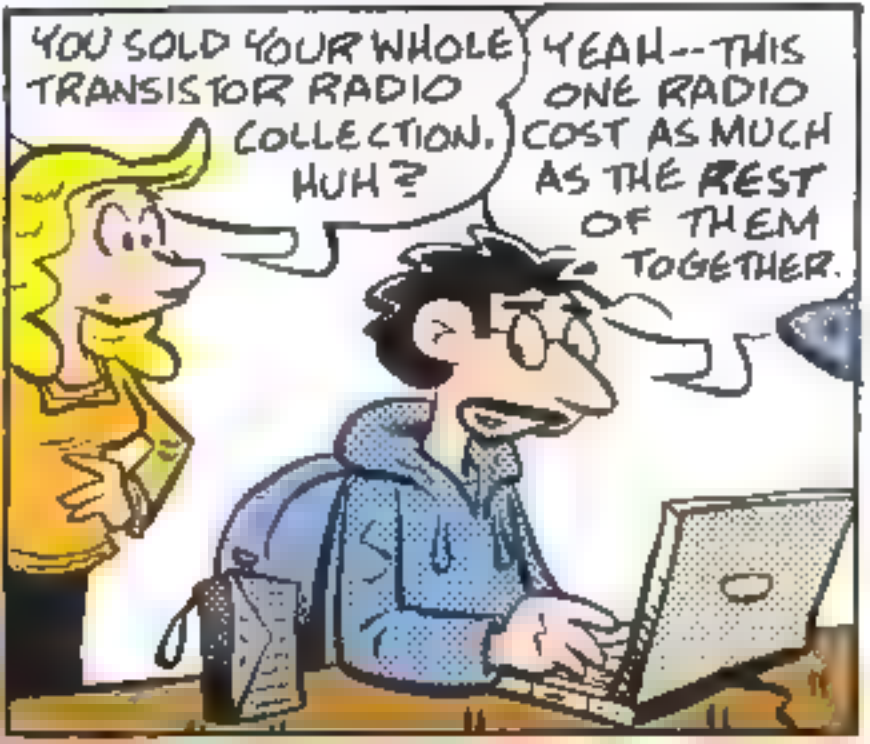
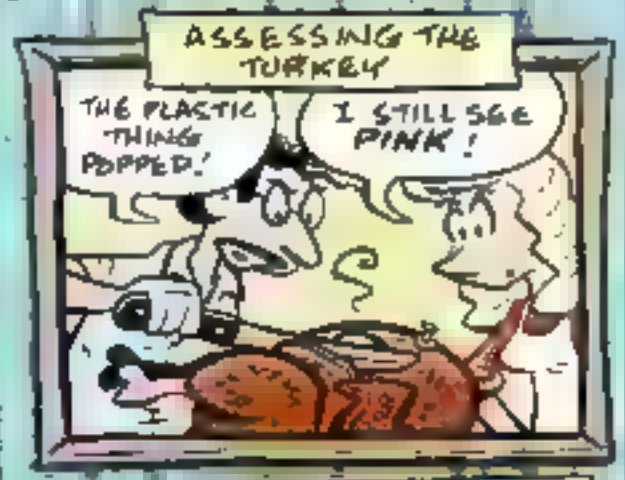
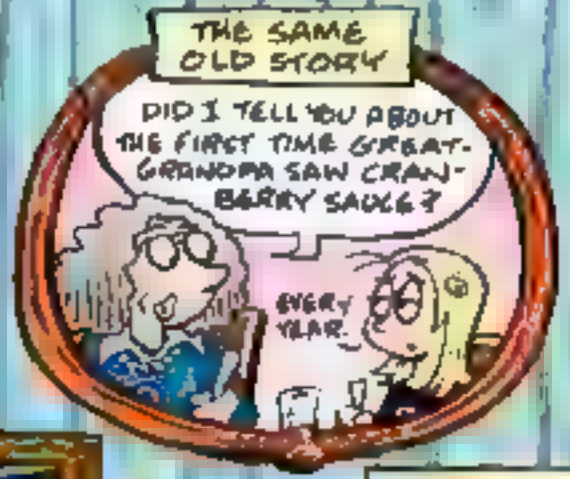

YOU SOLD YOUR WHOLE TRANSISTOR RADIO COLLECTION. HUH?
YEAH--THIS ONE RADIO COST AS MUCH AS THE REST OF THEM TOGETHER.

I'M KEEPING IT TO REMIND MYSELF NOT TO GET CARRIED AWAY BY THE DESIRE TO COLLECT THINGS.
IT'S ALWAYS NICE TO LEARN SOMETHING ABOUT YOURSELF.

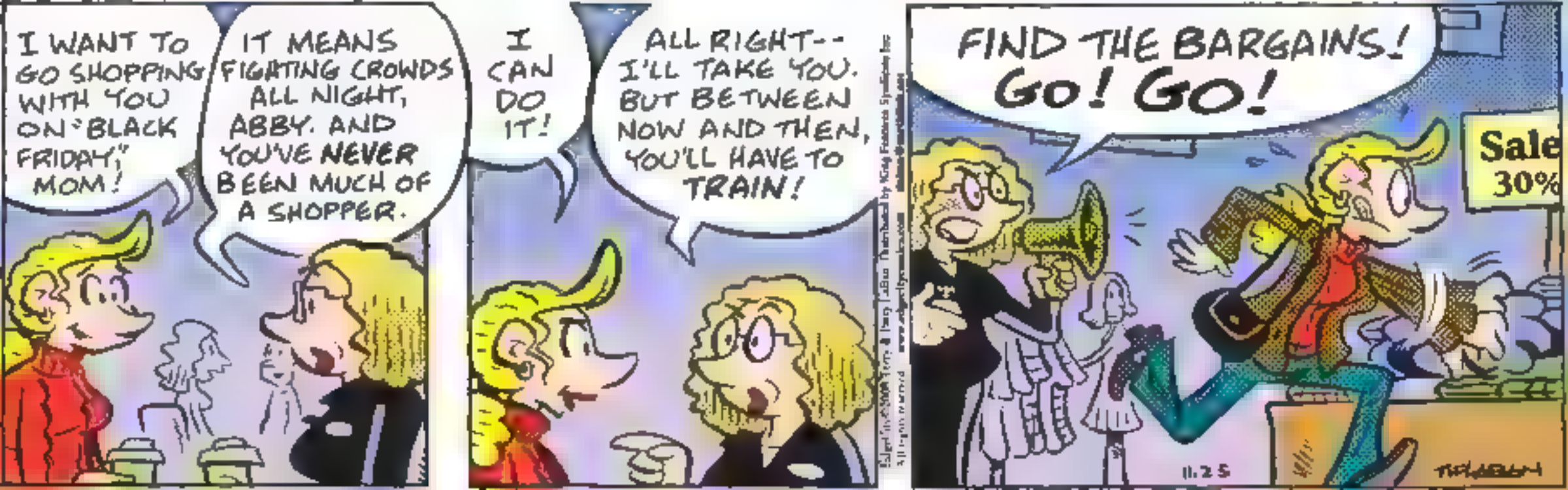
OOH! I LIKE THESE BEER STEINS!

Thanksgiving Traditions

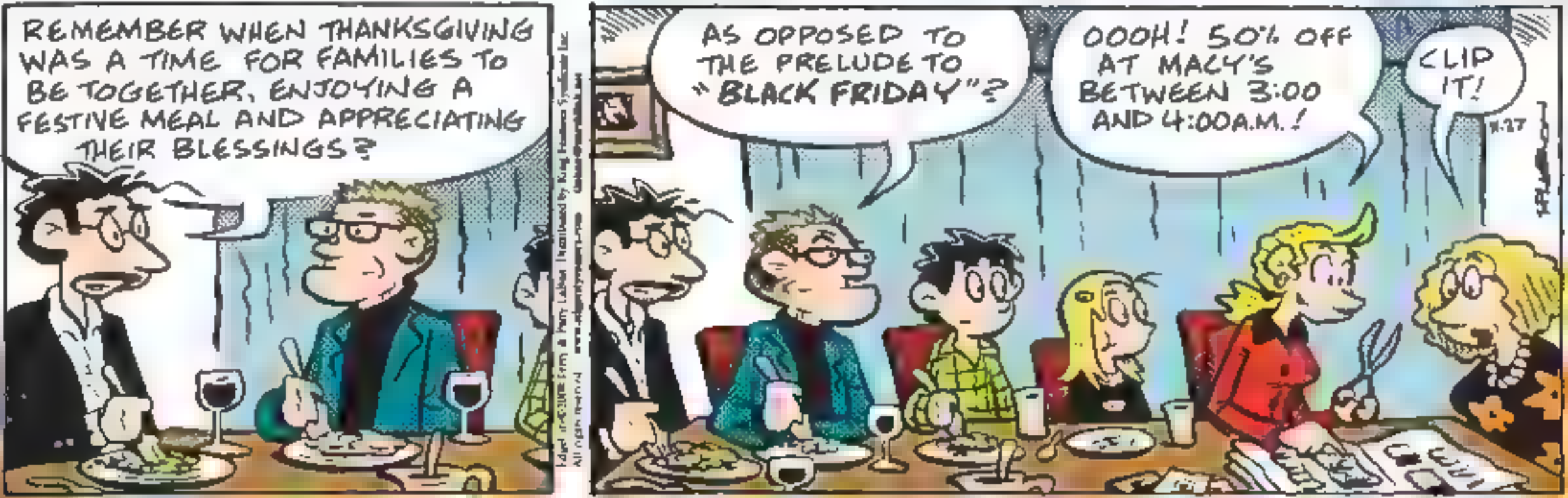




ARE YOU GOING SHOPPING THE MORNING OF "BLACK FRIDAY," MOM?
SURE! I GO EVERY YEAR!
TAKE ME WITH YOU! I COULD DO ALL MY HANUKKAH SHOPPING AND TAKE ADVANTAGE OF ALL THOSE BARGAINS!
I DON'T KNOW, ABBY--YOU'VE NEVER BEEN A BIG SHOPPER.
BLACK FRIDAY IS AN ALL-NIGHT SLOG FROM STORE TO STORE, SAVAGELY FIGHTING FOR EVERY MARK-DOWN!
C'MON! YOU MAKE IT SOUND LIKE D-DAY!
NOPE--YOU'RE DEFINITELY NOT UP TO IT.
11-24


I WANT TO GO SHOPPING WITH YOU ON "BLACK FRIDAY," MOM!
IT MEANS FIGHTING CROWDS ALL NIGHT, ABBY. AND YOU'VE NEVER BEEN MUCH OF A SHOPPER.
I CAN DO IT!
ALL RIGHT-- I'LL TAKE YOU. BUT BETWEEN NOW AND THEN, YOU'LL HAVE TO TRAIN!
FIND THE BARGAINS! GO! GO!
Sale 30%
11.25

I'M FEELING PRESSURED ABOUT TOMORROW NIGHT.
RELAX, ABBY!
I'M SURE THANKSGIVING DINNER WILL BE PERFECT-- JUST LIKE A PAINTING BY NORMAN ROCKWELL.
11-26
I'M NOT WORRIED ABOUT DINNER. I'M WORRIED ABOUT KEEPING UP WITH MY MOM WHEN WE HIT THE STORES AT MID-NIGHT.
NORMAN ROCKWELL NEVER PAINTED "BLACK FRIDAY".


REMEMBER WHEN THANKSGIVING WAS A TIME FOR FAMILIES TO BE TOGETHER, ENJOYING A FESTIVE MEAL AND APPRECIATING THEIR BLESSINGS?
AS OPPOSED TO THE PRELUDE TO "BLACK FRIDAY"?
OOOH! 50% OFF AT MACY'S BETWEEN 3:00 AND 4:00A.M.!
CLIP IT!
11-27

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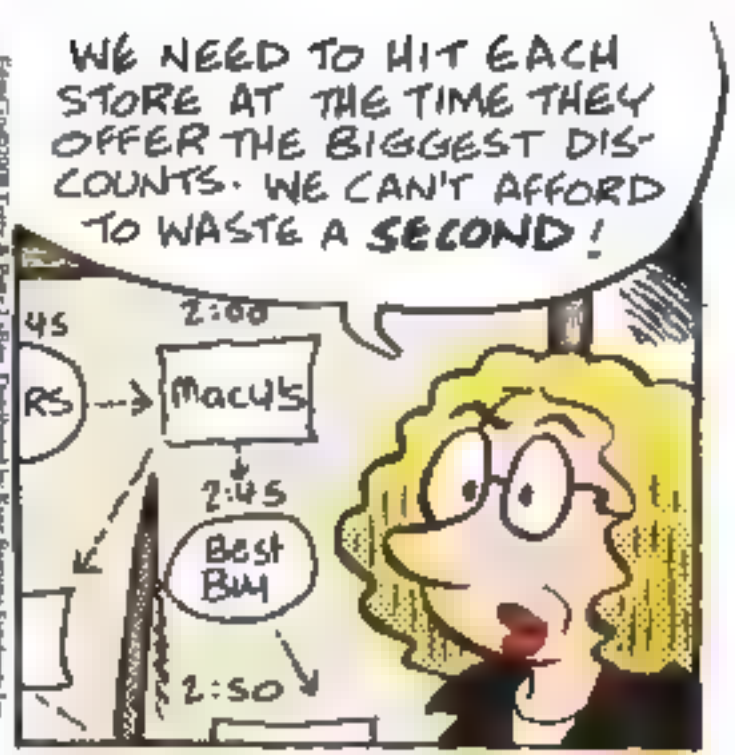
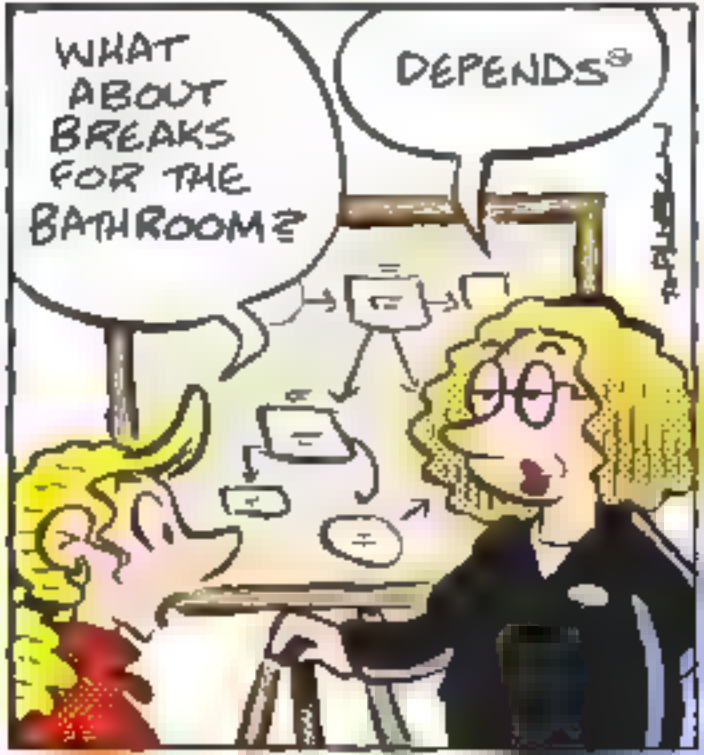
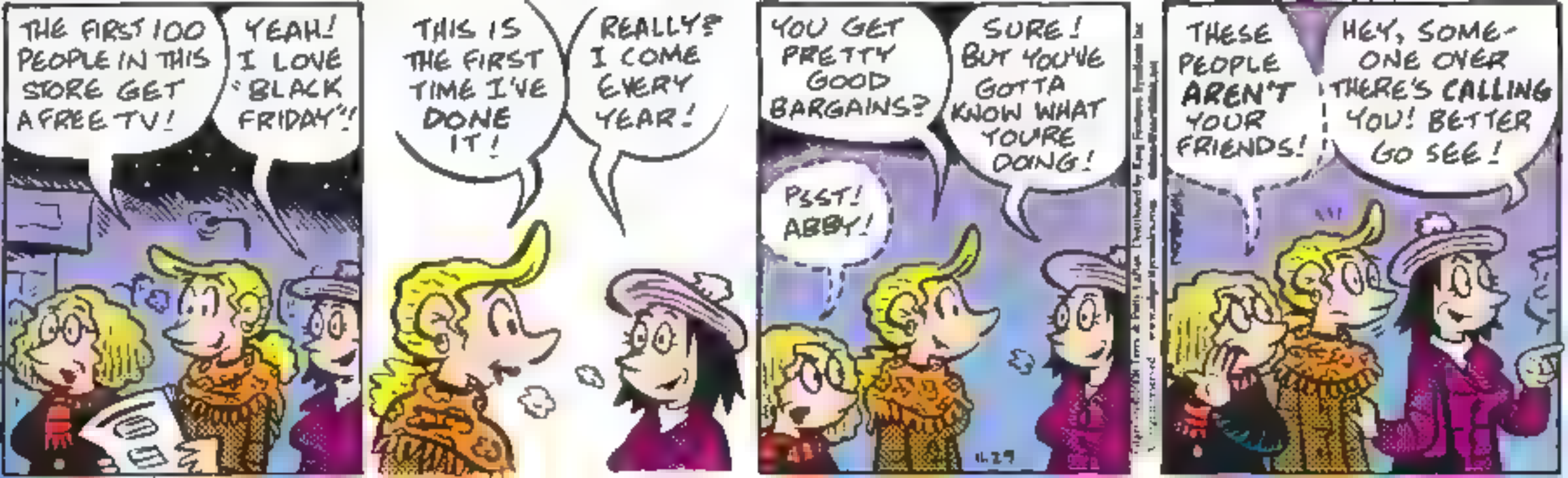




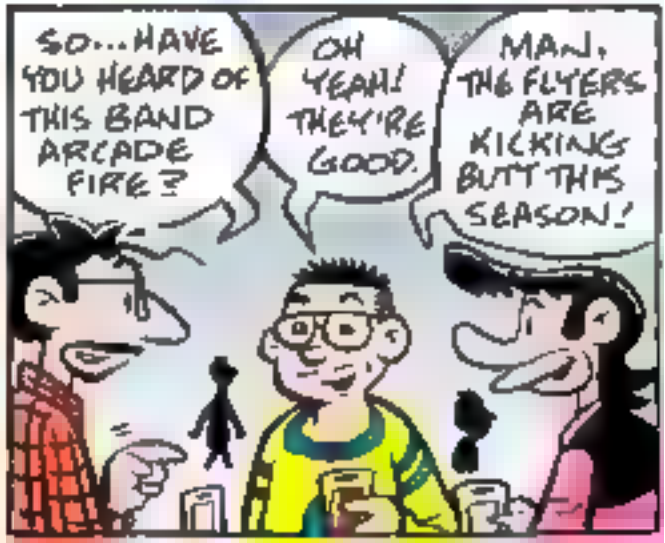

THE FIRST 100 PEOPLE IN THIS STORE GET A FREE TV!
YEAH! I LOVE "BLACK FRIDAY"!
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE DONE IT!
REALLY? I COME EVERY YEAR!
YOU GET PRETTY GOOD BARGAINS?
SURE! BUT YOU'VE GOTTA KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING!
PSST! ABBY!
THESE PEOPLE AREN'T YOUR FRIENDS!
HEY, SOMEONE OVER THERE'S CALLING YOU! BETTER GO SEE!

MY WIFE ALWAYS ASKS ME WHAT WE TALK ABOUT WHEN WE GO OUT TOGGTHER.

WHEN I TELL HER MOSTLY MUSIC AND SPORTS, SHE'S ALWAYS SURPRISED. SHE SAYS MEN JUST DON'T COMMUNICATE ON THE SAME LEVEL WOMEN DO.

IT REALLY BUGS ME! I MEAN, I COULD TELL YOU GUYS MY DEEPEST HOPES AND FEARS IF I WANTED TO!
SURE!
ABSO-LUTELY!
COULDN'T I?

'HEM!
COUGH!
TAP TAPP


SO... HAVE YOU HEARD OF THIS BAND ARCADE FIRE?
OH YEAH! THEY'RE GOOD.
MAN, THE FLYERS ARE KICKING BUTT THIS SEASON!

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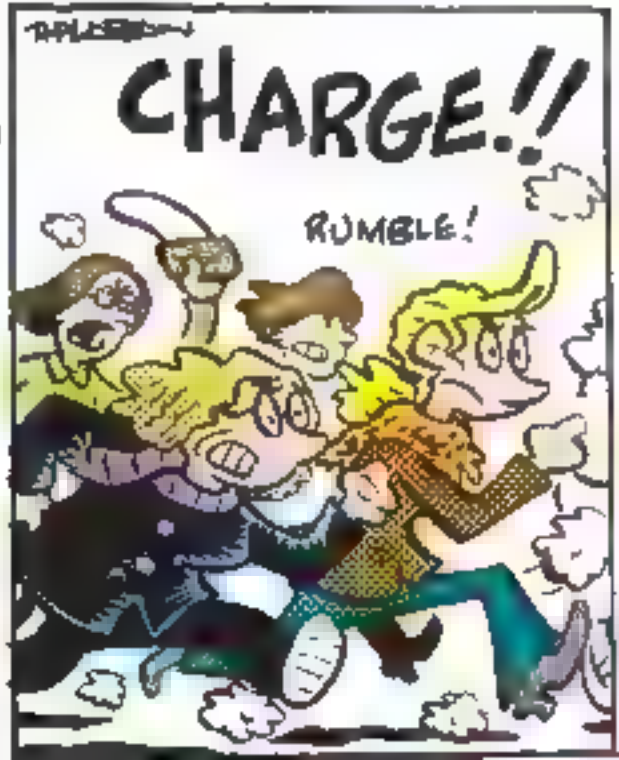
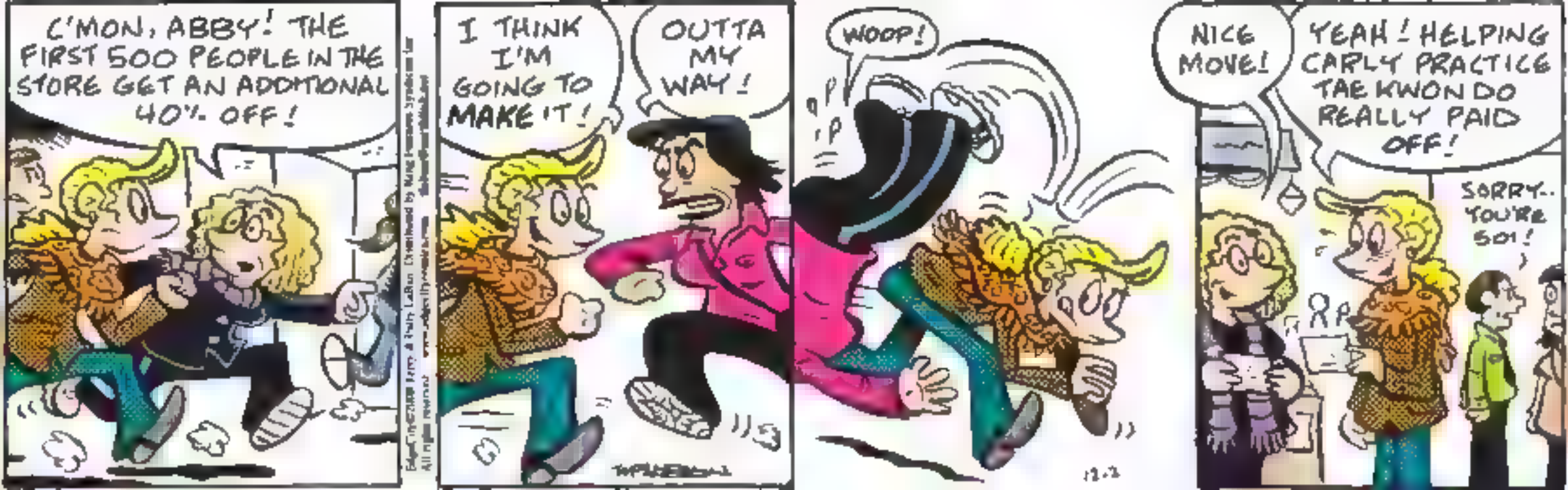
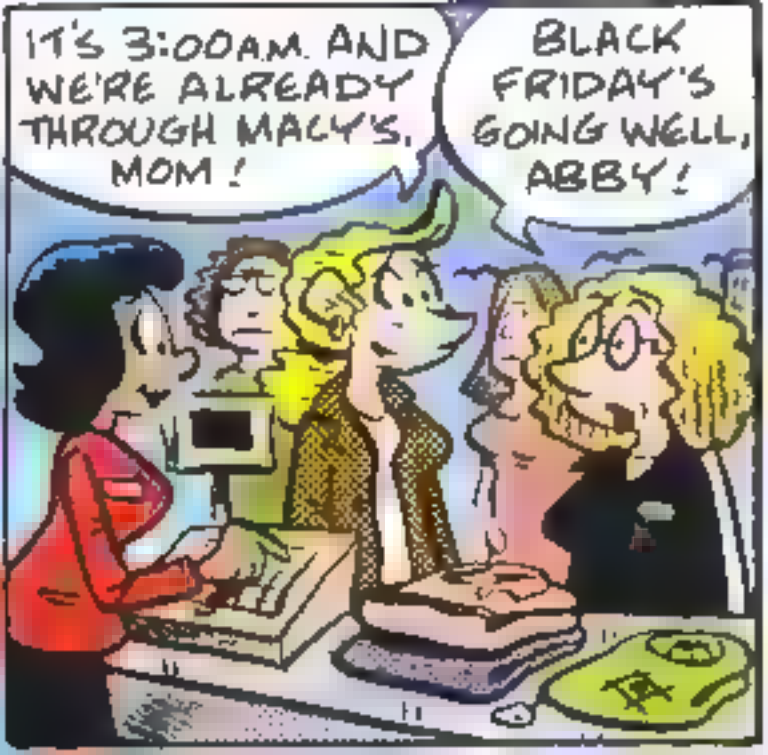
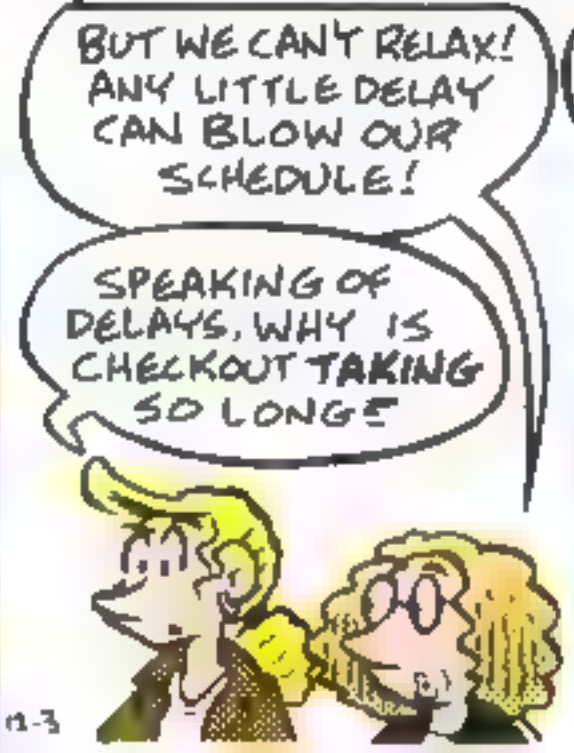
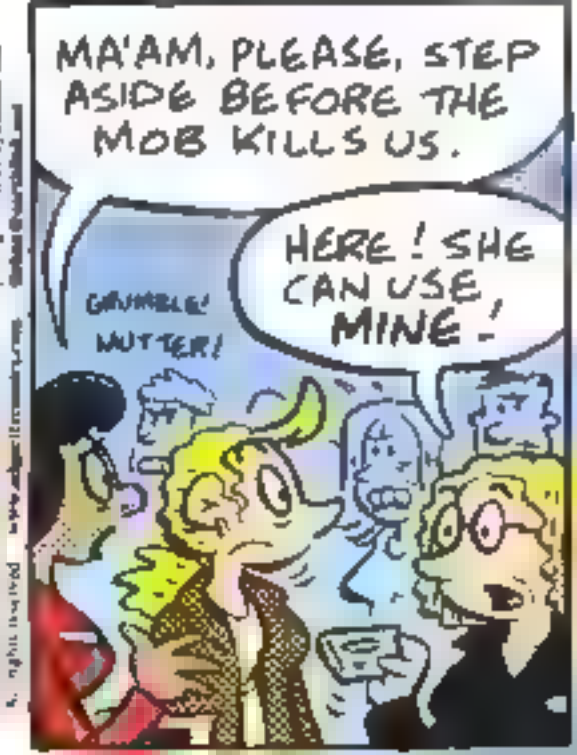


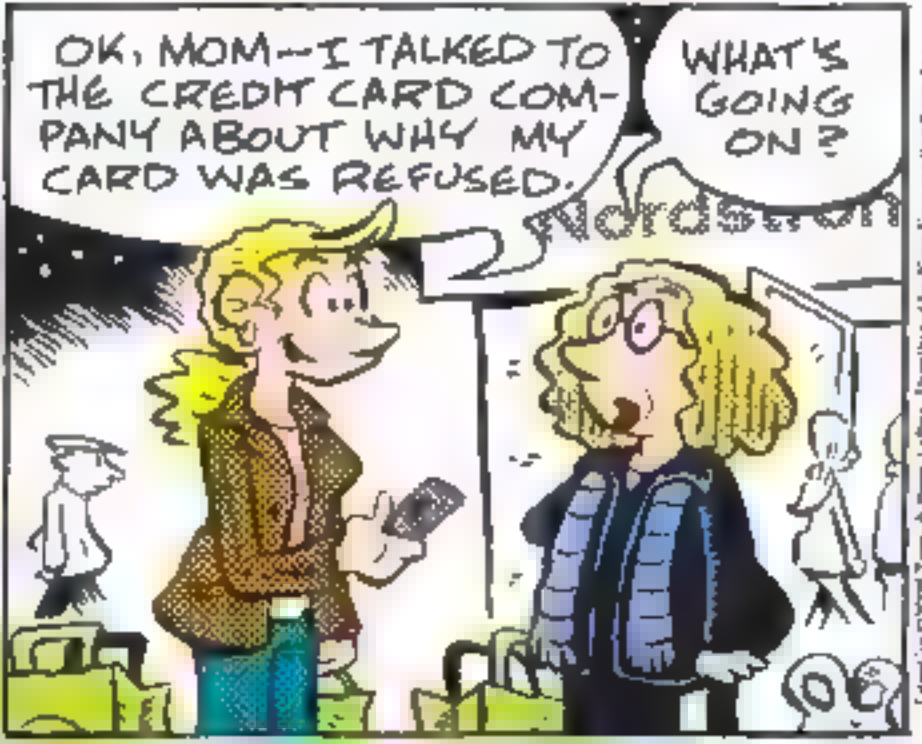

C'MON, ABBY! THE FIRST 500 PEOPLE IN THE STORE GET AN ADDITIONAL 40% OFF!
I THINK I'M GOING TO MAKE IT!
OUTTA MY WAY!
WOOP!
NICE MOVE!
YEAH! HELPING CARLY PRACTICE TAE KWON DO REALLY PAID OFF!
SORRY.. YOU'RE SO!


IT'S 3:00AM. AND WE'RE ALREADY THROUGH MACY'S, MOM!
BLACK FRIDAY'S GOING WELL, ABBY!


BUT WE CAN'T RELAX! ANY LITTLE DELAY CAN BLOW OUR SCHEDULE!
SPEAKING OF DELAYS, WHY IS CHECKOUT TAKING SO LONG?

YOUR CREDIT CARD'S BEEN REFUSED, MA'AM.
WHAT?! THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE!!


MA'AM, PLEASE, STEP ASIDE BEFORE THE MOB KILLS US.
GRUMBLE! MUTTER!
HERE! SHE CAN USE MINE!



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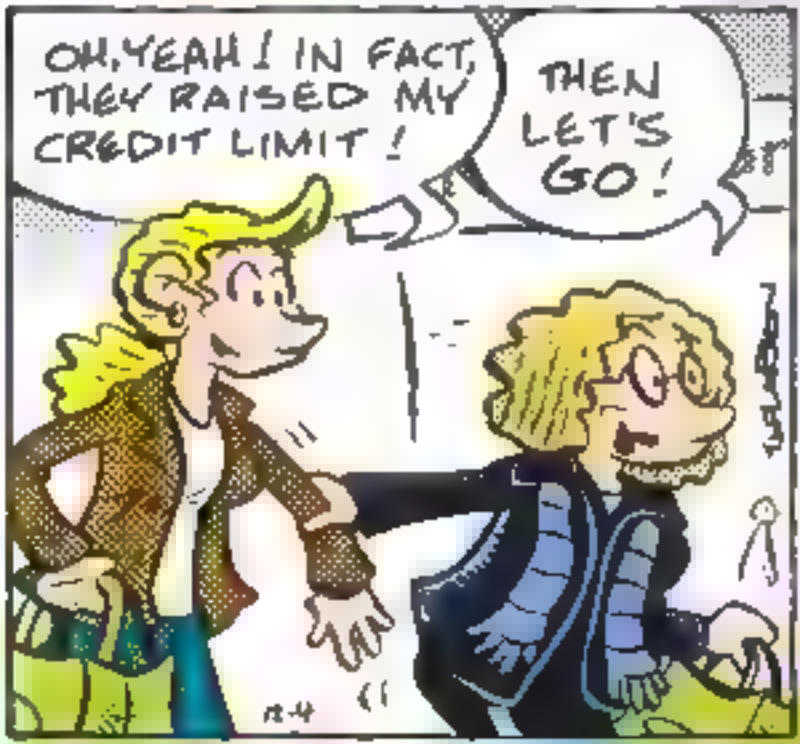
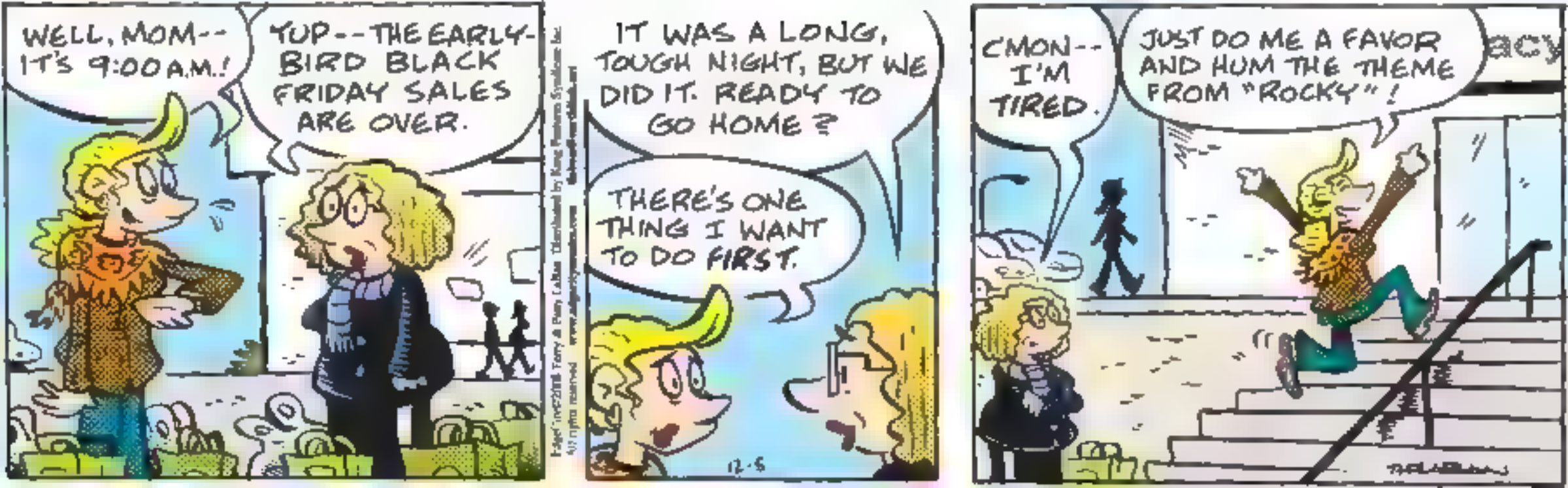
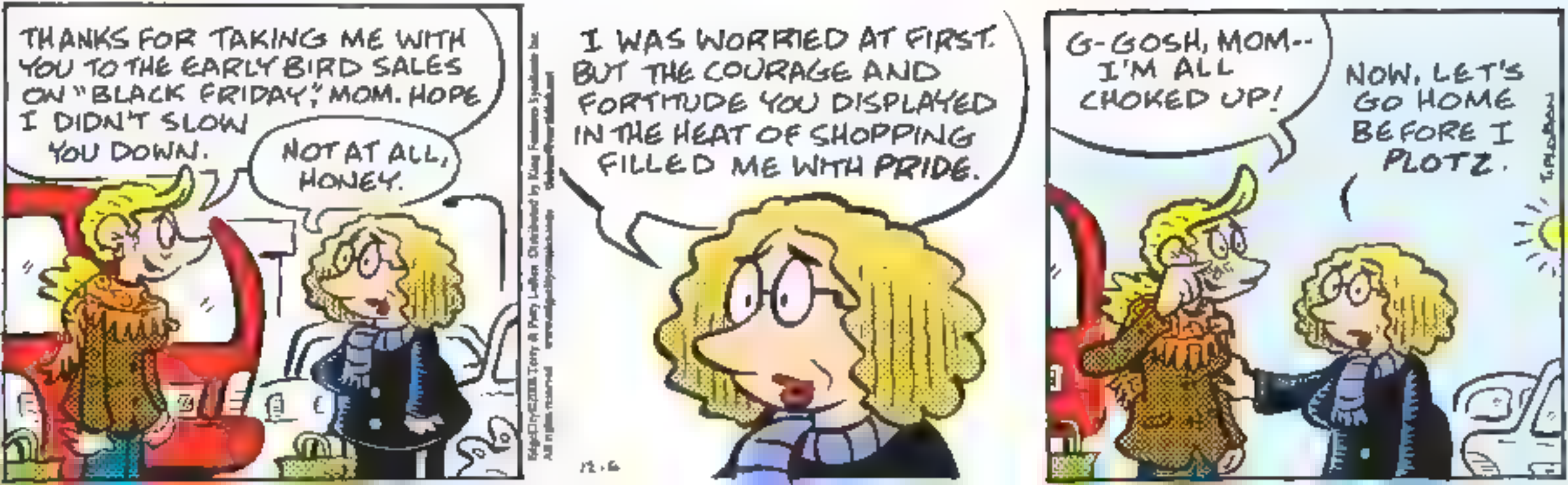
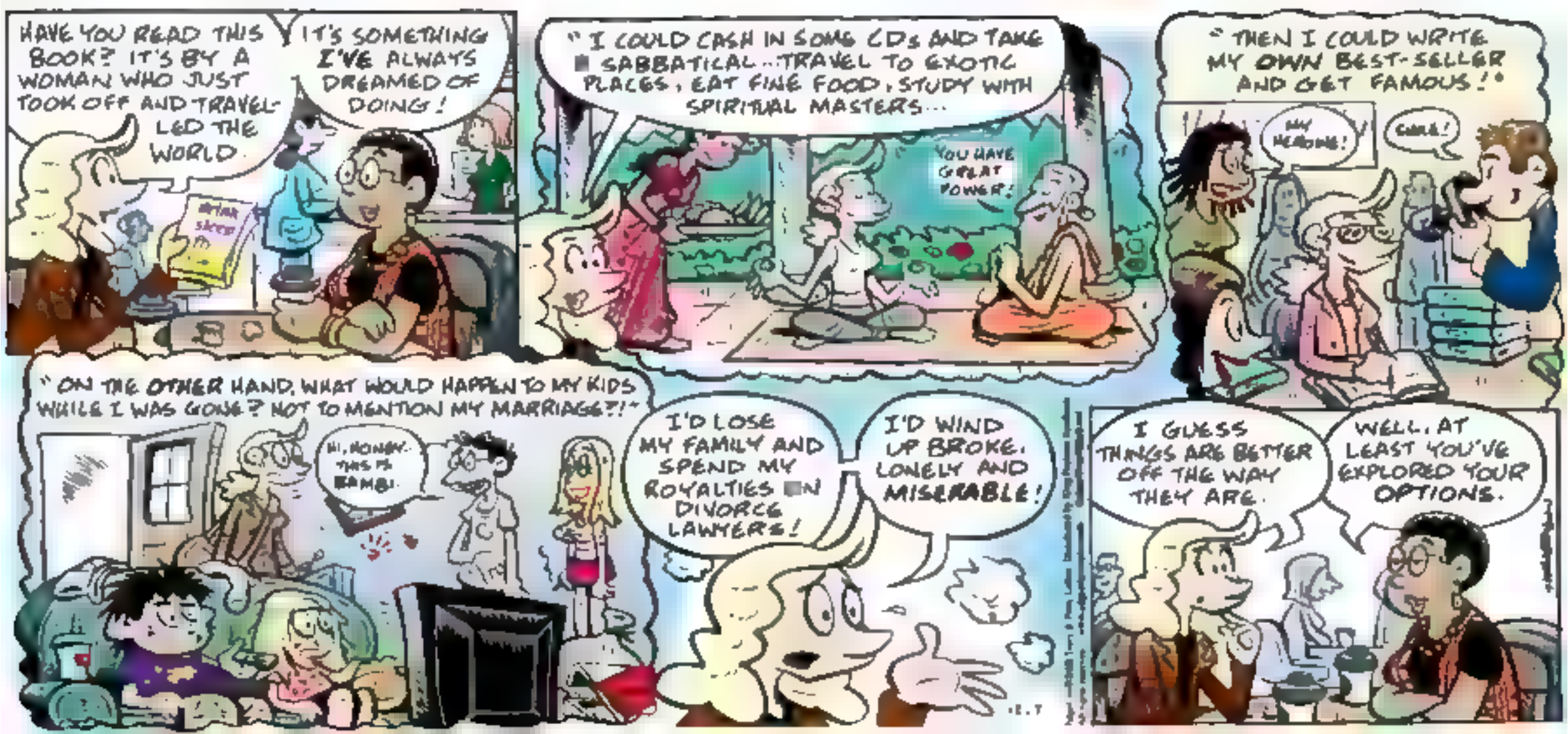


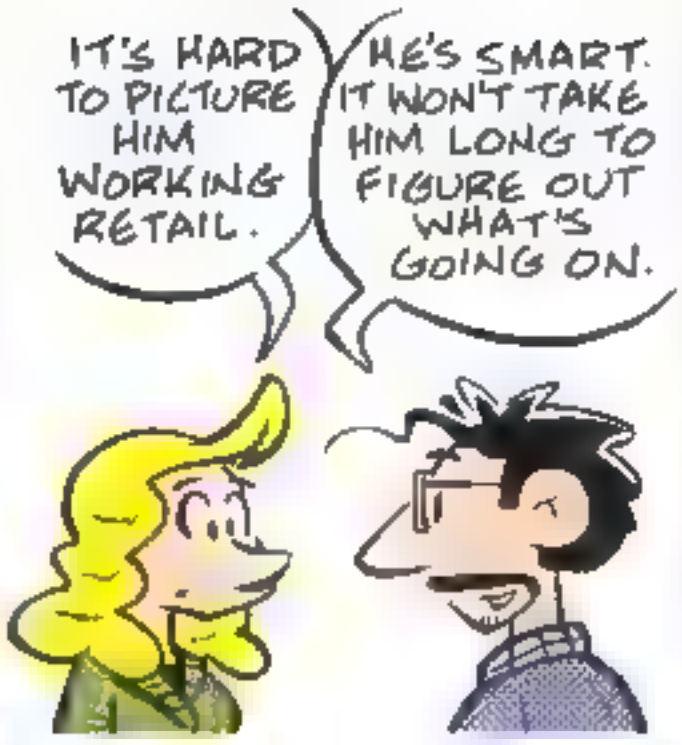

WELL, MOM-- IT'S 9:00 A.M.!
YUP--THE EARLY-BIRD BLACK FRIDAY SALES ARE OVER.
IT WAS A LONG, TOUGH NIGHT, BUT WE DID IT. READY TO GO HOME?
THERE'S ONE THING I WANT TO DO FIRST.
12-6
CMON-- I'M TIRED.
JUST DO ME A FAVOR AND HUM THE THEME FROM "ROCKY"!


THANKS FOR TAKING ME WITH YOU TO THE EARLY BIRD SALES ON "BLACK FRIDAY," MOM. HOPE I DIDN'T SLOW YOU DOWN.
NOT AT ALL, HONEY.
I WAS WORRIED AT FIRST. BUT THE COURAGE AND FORTITUDE YOU DISPLAYED IN THE HEAT OF SHOPPING FILLED ME WITH PRIDE.
G-GOSH, MOM-- I'M ALL CHOKED UP!
NOW, LET'S GO HOME BEFORE I PLOTZ.

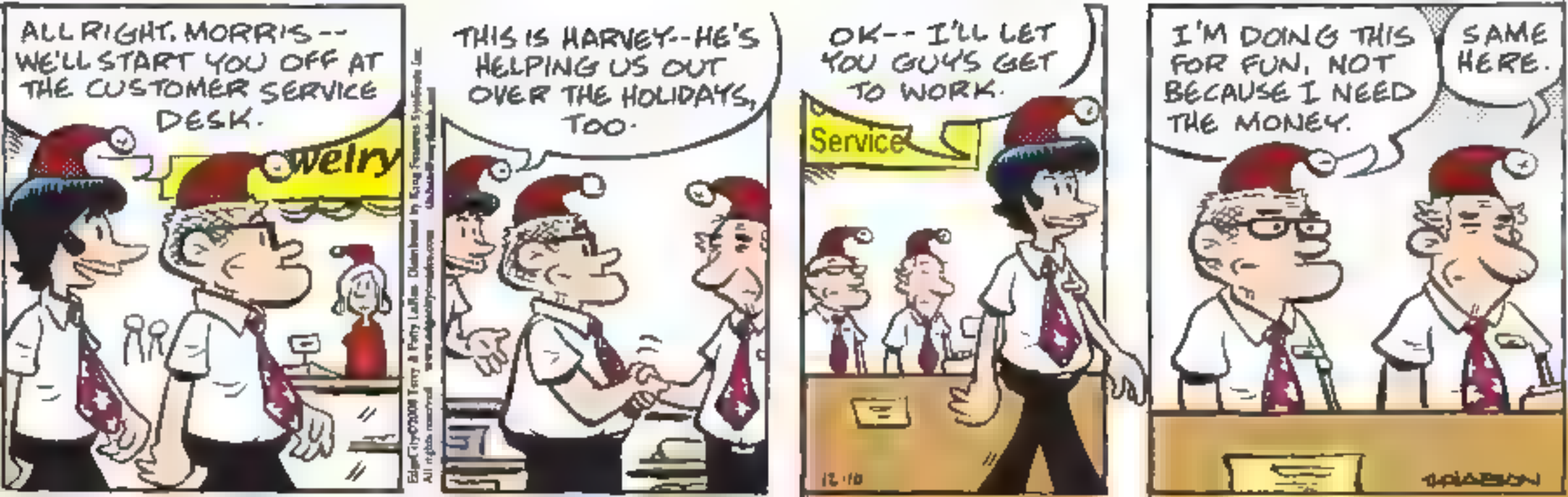

HAVE YOU READ THIS BOOK? IT'S BY A WOMAN WHO JUST TOOK OFF AND TRAVELLED THE WORLD.
IT'S SOMETHING I'VE ALWAYS DREAMED OF DOING!
"I COULD CASH IN SOME CDs AND TAKE A SABBATICAL...TRAVEL TO EXOTIC PLACES, EAT FINE FOOD, STUDY WITH SPIRITUAL MASTERS...
YOU HAVE GREAT POWER!
"THEN I COULD WRITE MY OWN BEST-SELLER AND GET FAMOUS!"
MY HEROINE!
GIRLS!
"ON THE OTHER HAND, WHAT WOULD HAPPEN TO MY KIDS WHILE I WAS GONE? NOT TO MENTION MY MARRIAGE?!"
HI, HONEY. THIS IS BAMBI.
I'D LOSE MY FAMILY AND SPEND MY ROYALTIES ON DIVORCE LAWYERS!
I'D WIND UP BROKE, LONELY AND MISERABLE!
I GUESS THINGS ARE BETTER OFF THE WAY THEY ARE.
WELL, AT LEAST YOU'VE EXPLORED YOUR OPTIONS.

HI, MOM! I ENJOYED SHOPPING WITH YOU LAST WEEK.
ME TOO, ABBY!
SPEAKING OF SHOPPING, YOUR DAD'S TAKEN A TEMPORARY JOB AT THE MALL DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON.
REALLY? HOW COME?
WITH THE ECONOMY THE WAY IT IS, WE CAN USE SOME EXTRA CASH.
IT'S HARD TO PICTURE DAD GOING BACK TO WORK.
I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN.
I'M LEAVING.
12-8

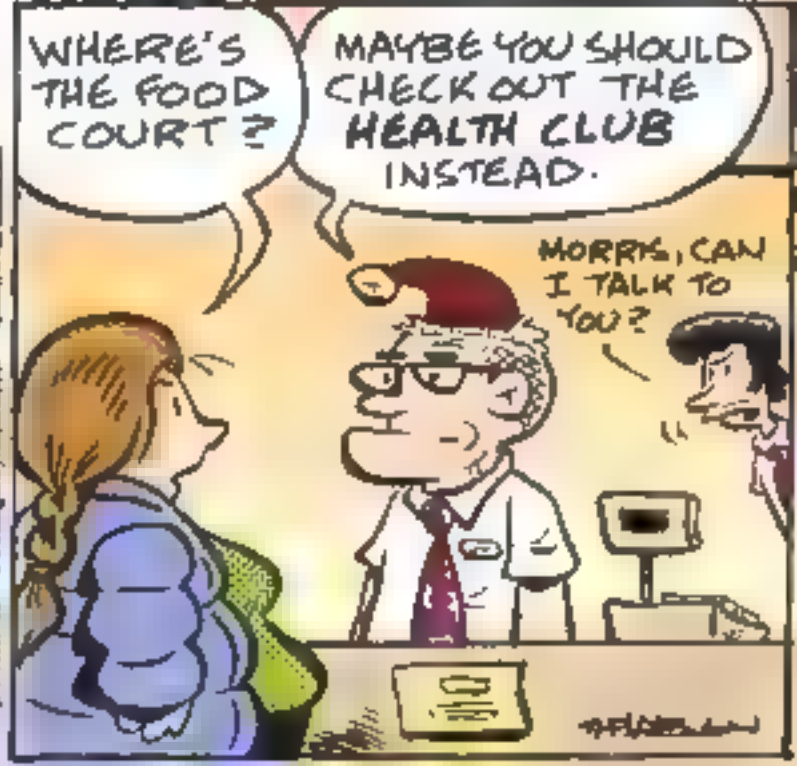
MY MOM TOLD ME THAT MY DAD'S WORKING AT THE MALL DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON.
NO KIDDING.


IT'S HARD TO PICTURE HIM WORKING RETAIL.
HE'S SMART. IT WON'T TAKE HIM LONG TO FIGURE OUT WHAT'S GOING ON.

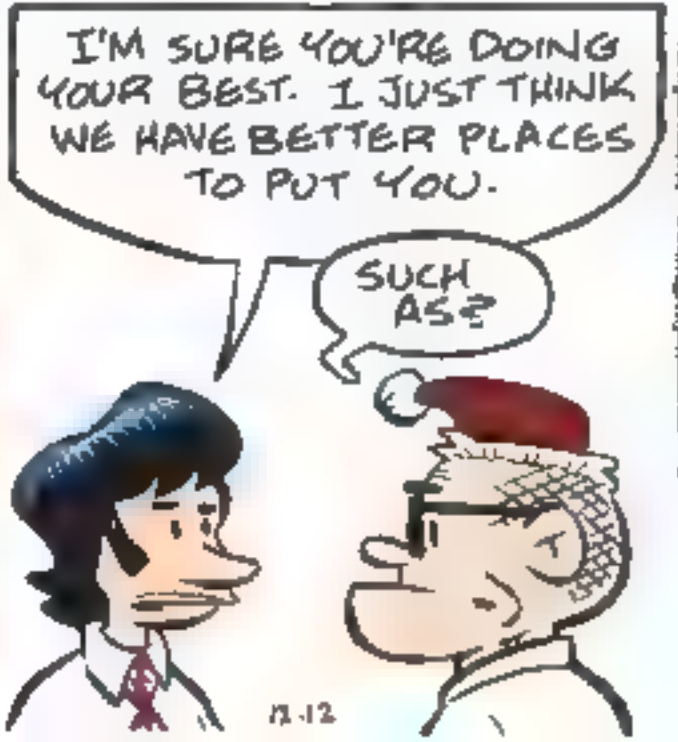
HEY KID --WHO'S IN CHARGE OF THIS DEPARTMENT?
ME!
12-9


ALL RIGHT, MORRIS -- WE'LL START YOU OFF AT THE CUSTOMER SERVICE DESK.
Welry
THIS IS HARVEY--HE'S HELPING US OUT OVER THE HOLIDAYS, TOO.
OK-- I'LL LET YOU GUYS GET TO WORK.
Service
12-10
I'M DOING THIS FOR FUN, NOT BECAUSE I NEED THE MONEY.
SAME HERE.

ABBY'S DAD AT THE CUSTOMER SERVICE DESK--



ABBY'S DAD HAS A TEMP JOB AT THE MALL--



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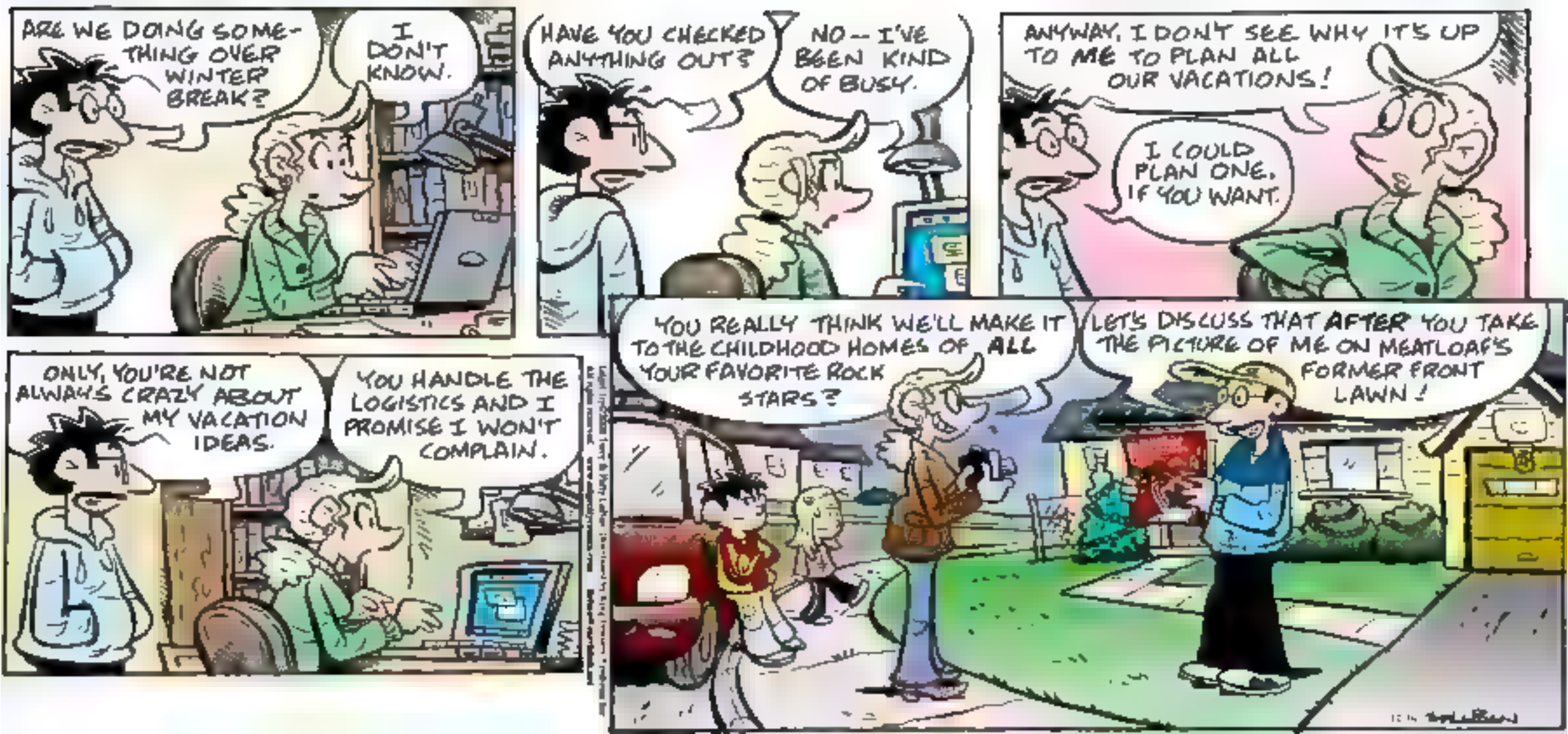
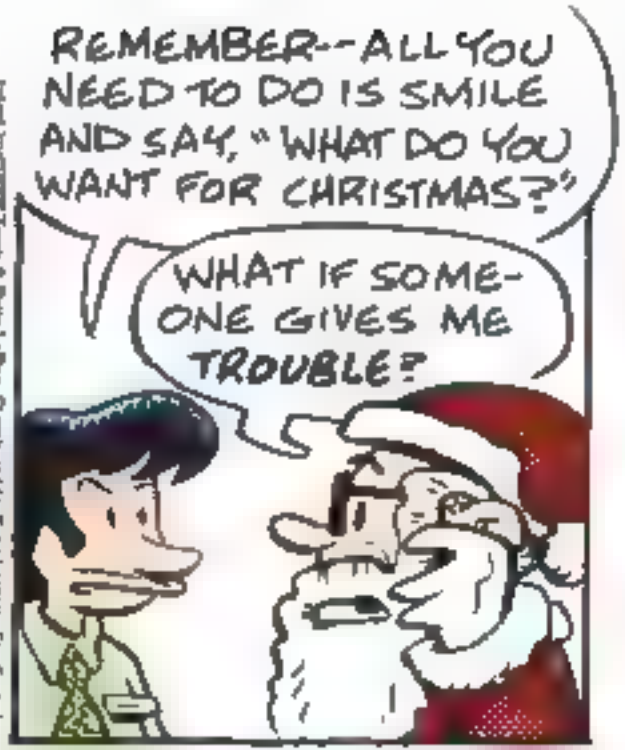
ABBY'S DAD HAS A TEMP JOB AT THE MALL--


ARE WE DOING SOMETHING OVER WINTER BREAK?
I DON'T KNOW.
HAVE YOU CHECKED ANYTHING OUT?
NO -- I'VE BEEN KIND OF BUSY.
ANYWAY, I DON'T SEE WHY IT'S UP TO ME TO PLAN ALL OUR VACATIONS!
I COULD PLAN ONE, IF YOU WANT.
ONLY, YOU'RE NOT ALWAYS CRAZY ABOUT MY VACATION IDEAS.
YOU HANDLE THE LOGISTICS AND I PROMISE I WON'T COMPLAIN.
YOU REALLY THINK WE'LL MAKE IT TO THE CHILDHOOD HOMES OF ALL YOUR FAVORITE ROCK STARS?
LET'S DISCUSS THAT AFTER YOU TAKE THE PICTURE OF ME ON MEATLOAF'S FORMER FRONT LAWN!

ABBY'S DAD HAS A TEMP JOB AT THE MALL--



ABBY'S DAD HAS A TEMP JOB AT THE MALL--

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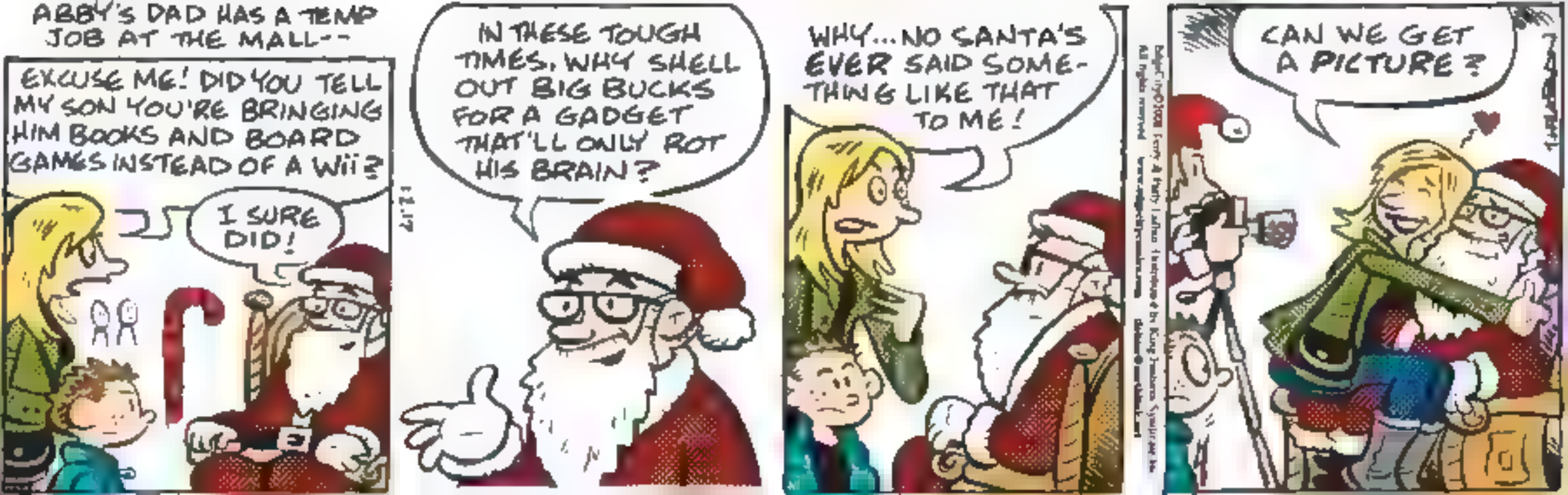
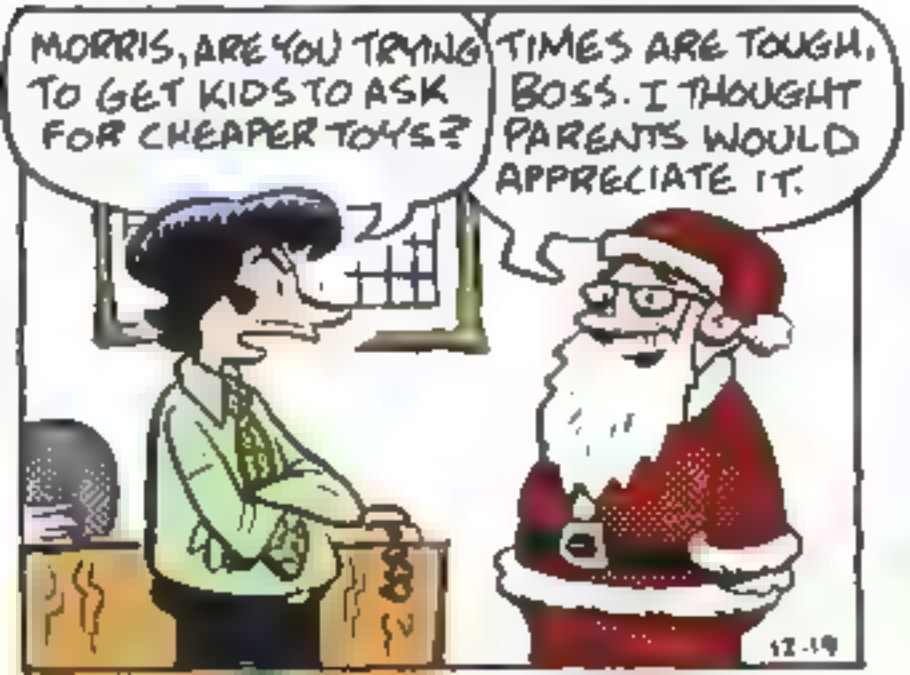
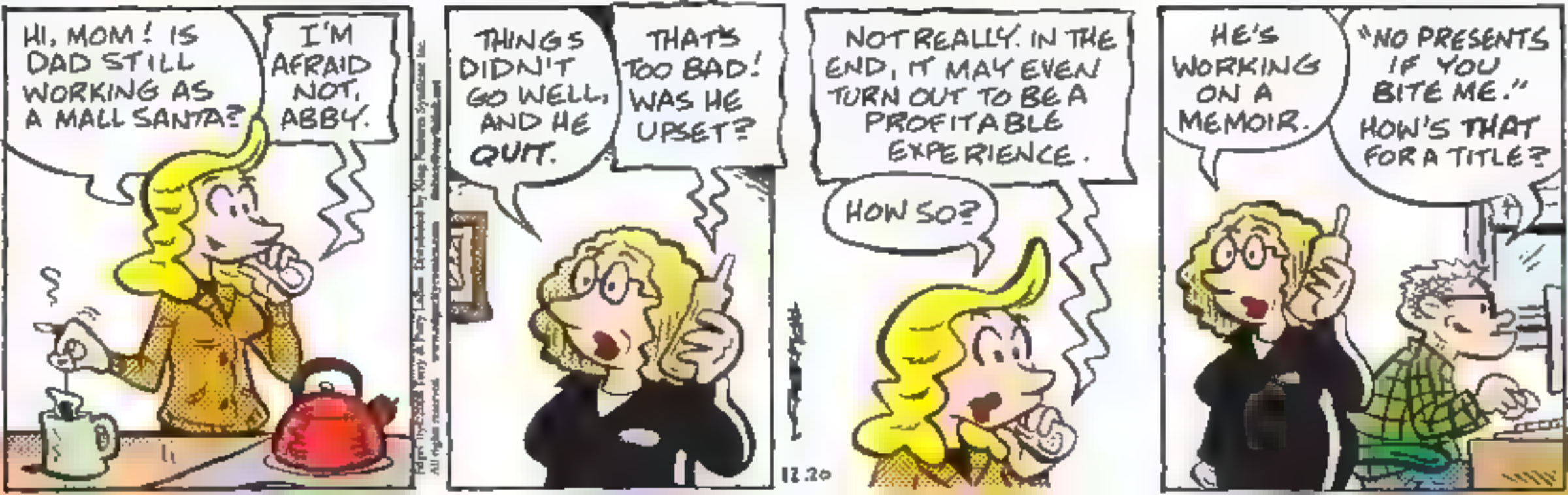

ABBY'S DAD HAS A TEMP JOB AT THE MALL--
EXCUSE ME! DID YOU TELL MY SON YOU'RE BRINGING HIM BOOKS AND BOARD GAMES INSTEAD OF A Wii?
I SURE DID!
IN THESE TOUGH TIMES, WHY SHELL OUT BIG BUCKS FOR A GADGET THAT'LL ONLY ROT HIS BRAIN?
WHY... NO SANTA'S EVER SAID SOMETHING LIKE THAT TO ME!
CAN WE GET A PICTURE?

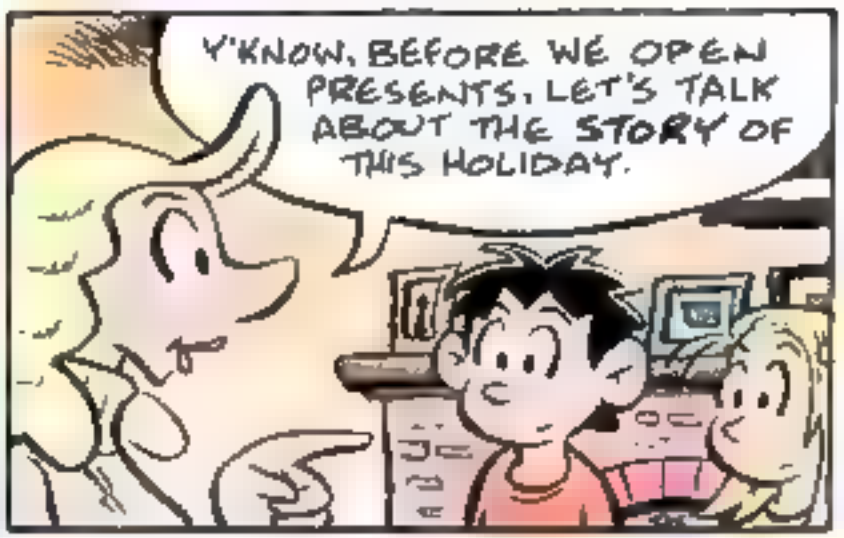
ABBY'S DAD HAS A TEMP JOB AT THE MALL--

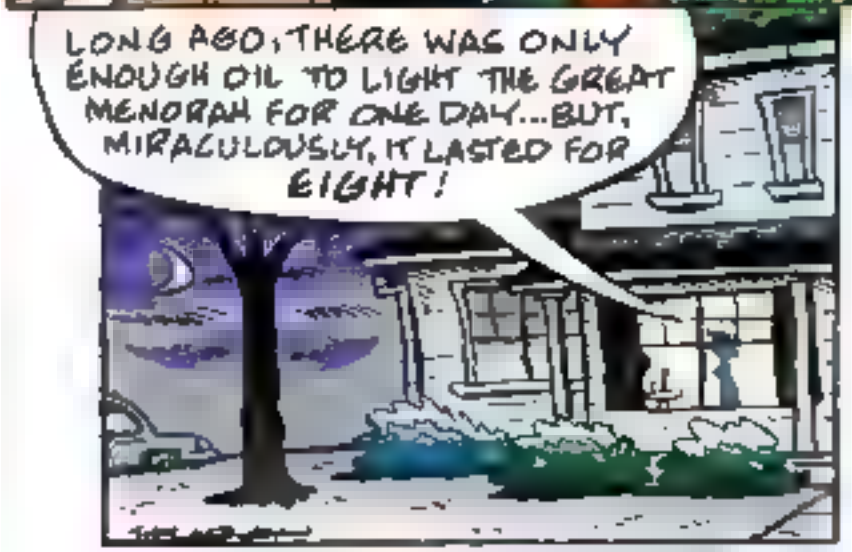
ABBY'S DAD HAS A TEMP JOB AT THE MALL--

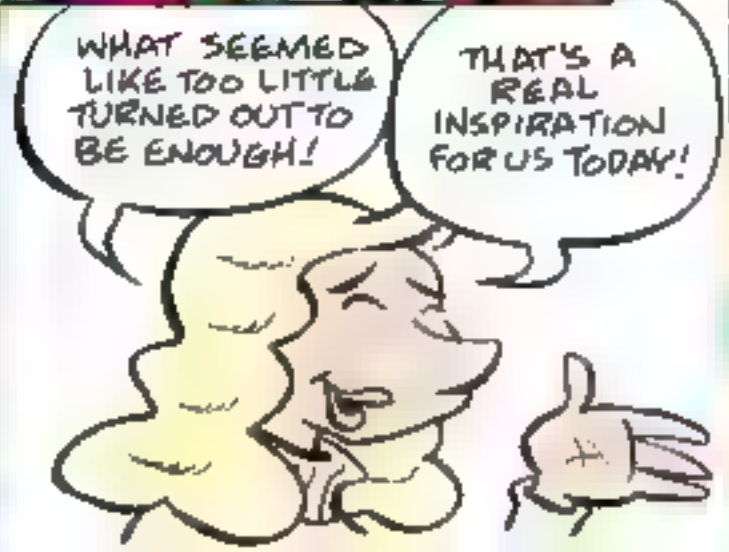



HI, MOM! IS DAD STILL WORKING AS A MALL SANTA?
I'M AFRAID NOT, ABBY.
THINGS DIDN'T GO WELL, AND HE QUIT.
THAT'S TOO BAD! WAS HE UPSET?
NOT REALLY. IN THE END, IT MAY EVEN TURN OUT TO BE A PROFITABLE EXPERIENCE.
HOW SO?
HE'S WORKING ON A MEMOIR.
"NO PRESENTS IF YOU BITE ME." HOW'S THAT FOR A TITLE?

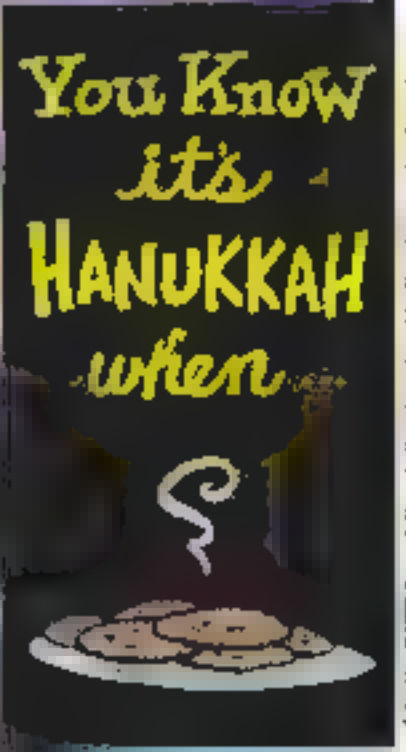
HAPPY HANUKKAH, KIDS!


Y'KNOW, BEFORE WE OPEN PRESENTS, LET'S TALK ABOUT THE STORY OF THIS HOLIDAY.


LONG AGO, THERE WAS ONLY ENOUGH OIL TO LIGHT THE GREAT MENORAH FOR ONE DAY...BUT, MIRACULOUSLY, IT LASTED FOR EIGHT!


WHAT SEEMED LIKE TOO LITTLE TURNED OUT TO BE ENOUGH!
THAT'S A REAL INSPIRATION FOR US TODAY!

ARE YOU THINKING OF OUR IRAS?
WHAT'S LEFT OF THEM.
WE GET IT. NOW CAN WE OPEN PRESENTS?



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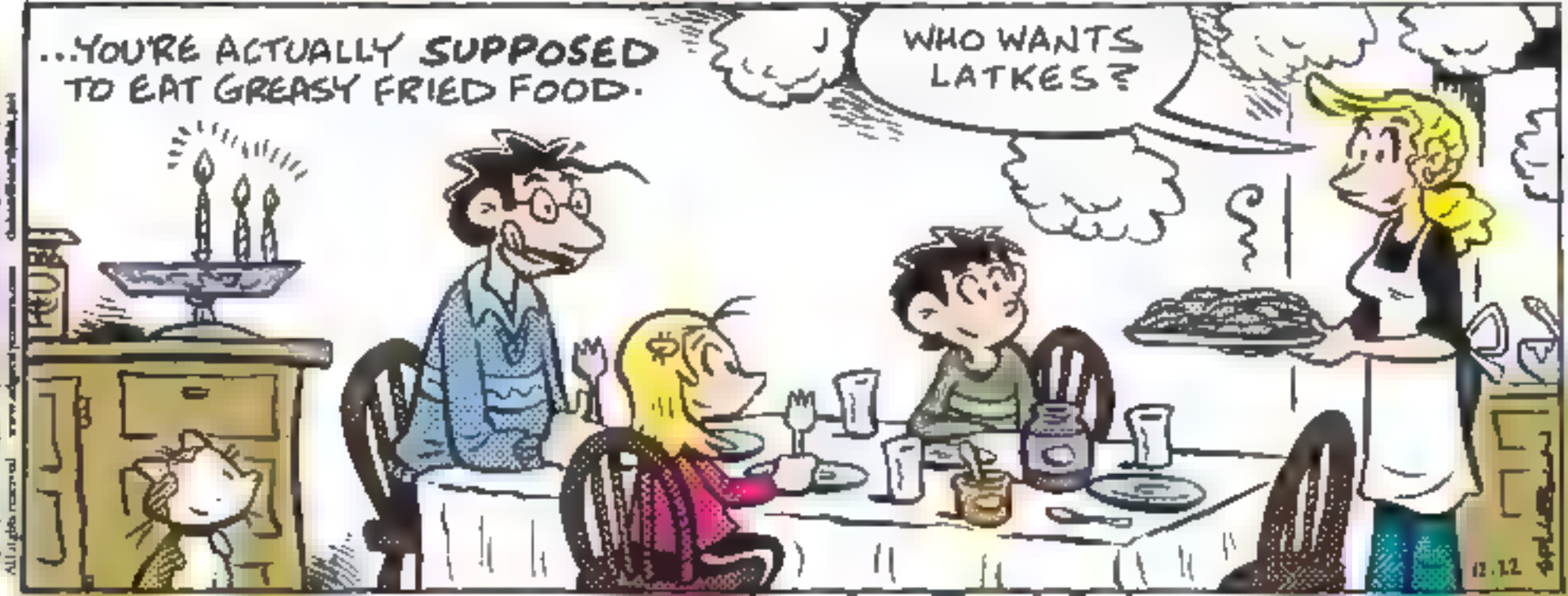

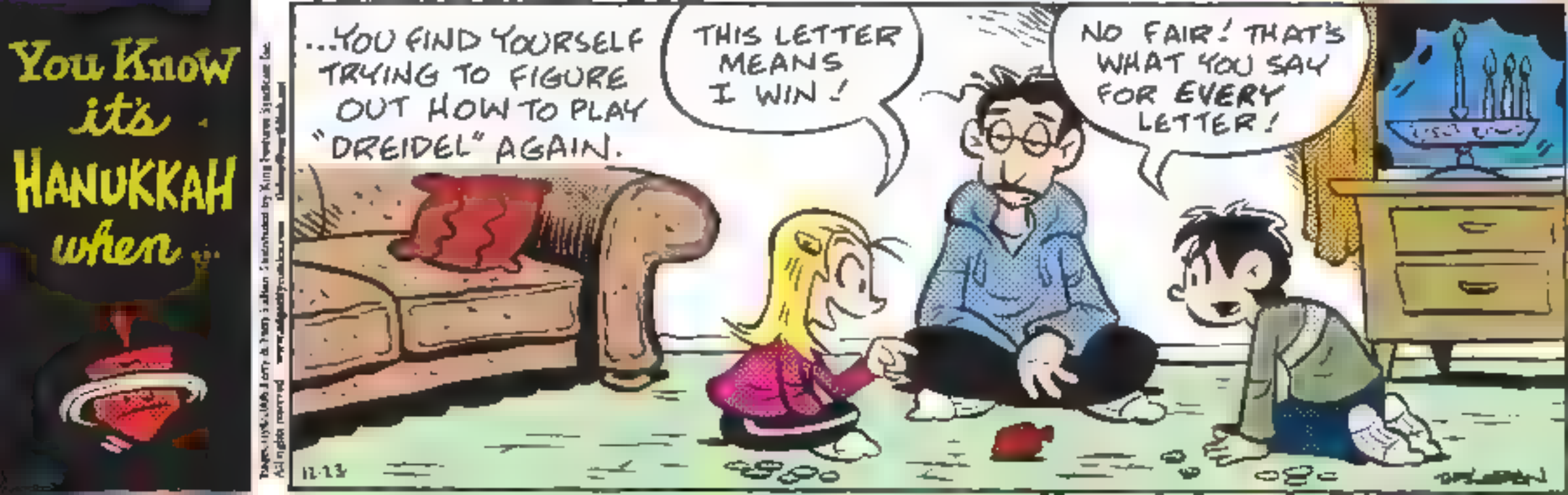
You Know it's HANUKKAH when...
...YOU FIND YOURSELF TRYING TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO PLAY "DREIDEL" AGAIN.
THIS LETTER MEANS I WIN!
NO FAIR! THAT'S WHAT YOU SAY FOR EVERY LETTER!
12-13

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You Know it's HANUKKAH when

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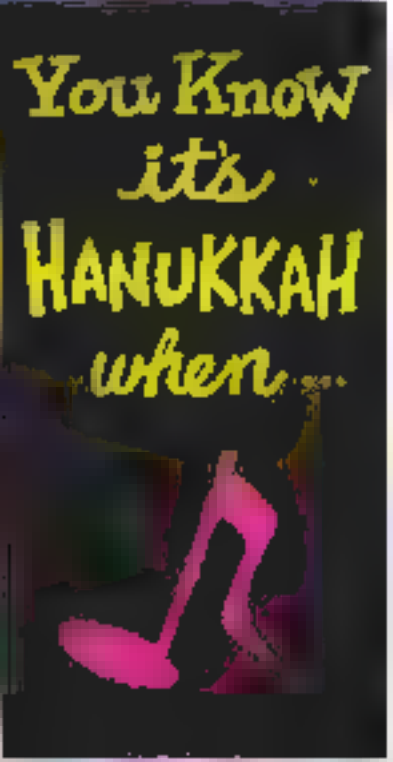
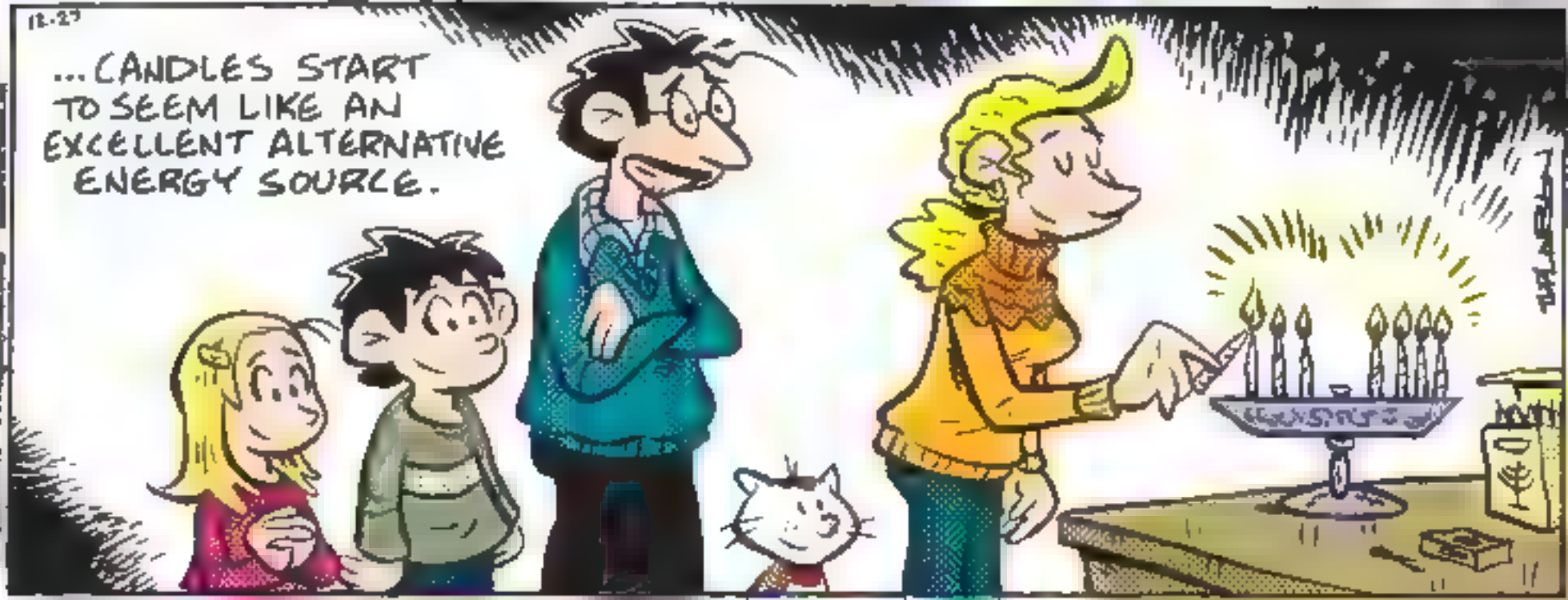
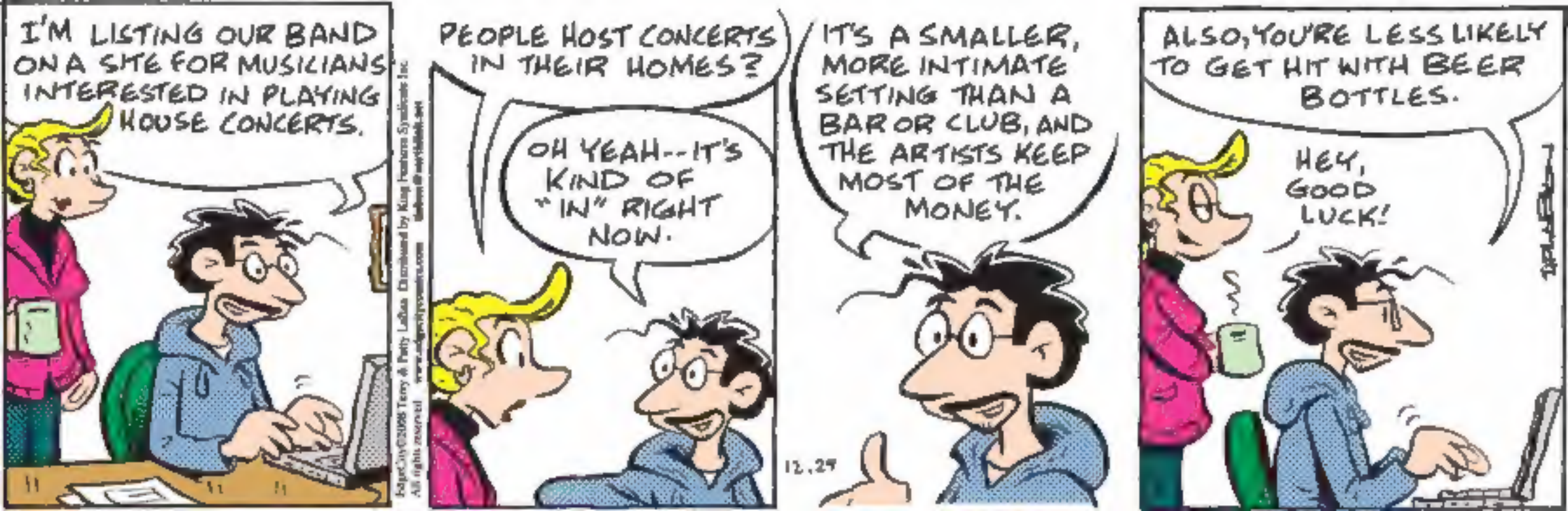

You Know it's HANUKKAH when...

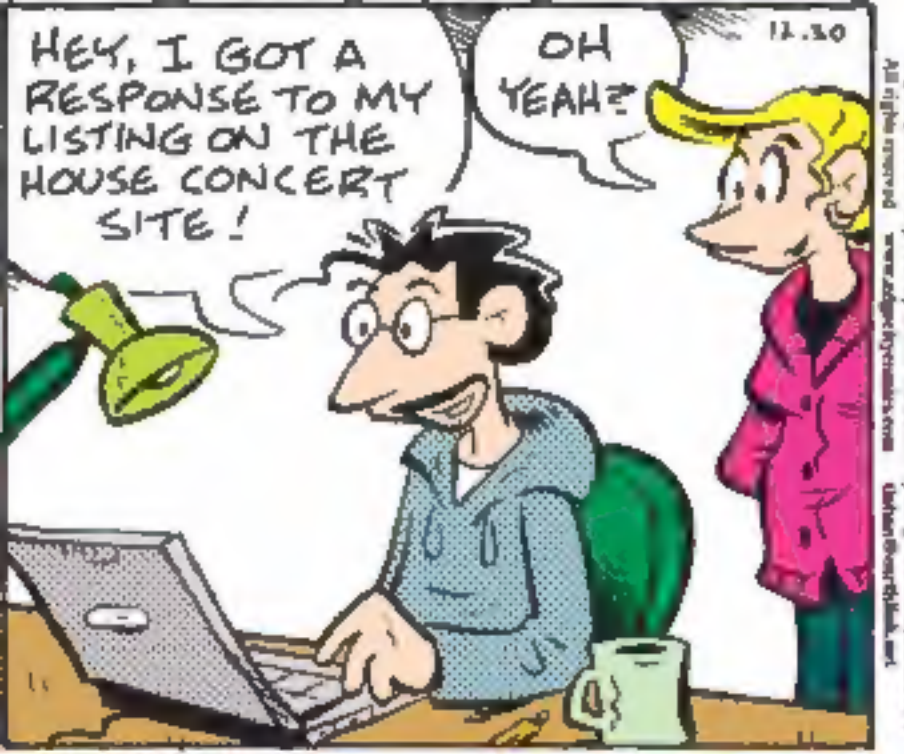
12.26
...DAD KEEPS PLAYING THAT ADAM SANDLER SONG.
♪...SO MUCH FUN-AKKAH TO CELEBRATE HANUKKAH!...♫

You Know it's HANUKKAH when ...


12-29
...CANDLES START TO SEEM LIKE AN EXCELLENT ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SOURCE.

2008
2009


I'M LISTING OUR BAND ON A SITE FOR MUSICIANS INTERESTED IN PLAYING HOUSE CONCERTS.
PEOPLE HOST CONCERTS IN THEIR HOMES?
OH YEAH--IT'S KIND OF "IN" RIGHT NOW.
IT'S A SMALLER, MORE INTIMATE SETTING THAN A BAR OR CLUB, AND THE ARTISTS KEEP MOST OF THE MONEY.
12.29
ALSO, YOU'RE LESS LIKELY TO GET HIT WITH BEER BOTTLES.
HEY, GOOD LUCK!



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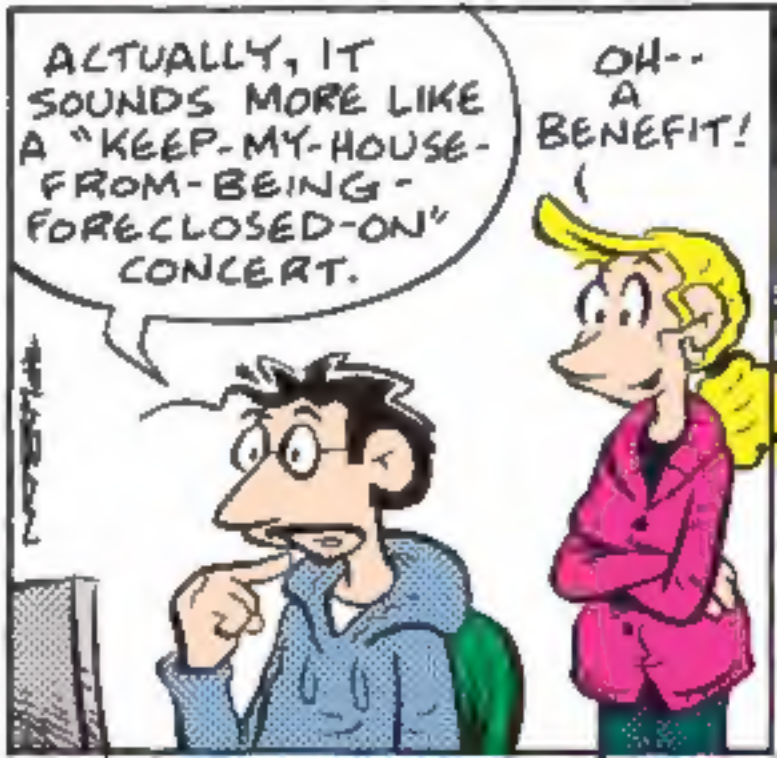

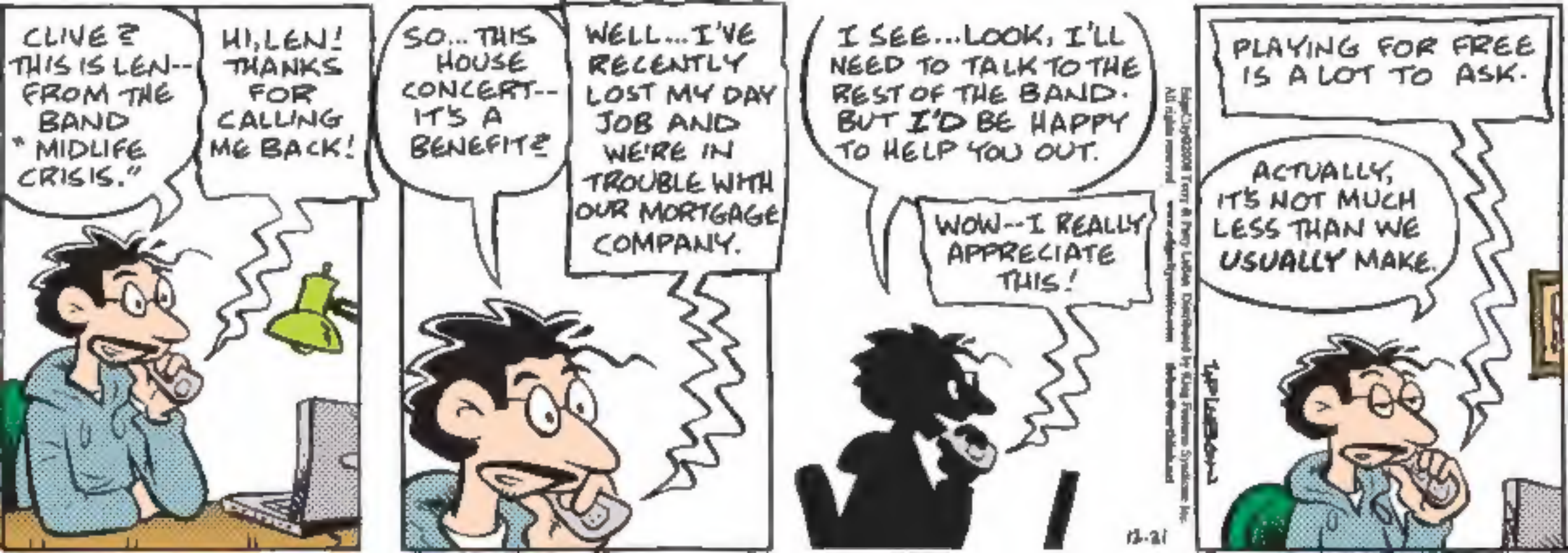
CLIVE? THIS IS LEN--FROM THE BAND "MIDLIFE CRISIS."
HI, LEN! THANKS FOR CALLING ME BACK!
SO... THIS HOUSE CONCERT--IT'S A BENEFIT?
WELL... I'VE RECENTLY LOST MY DAY JOB AND WE'RE IN TROUBLE WITH OUR MORTGAGE COMPANY.
I SEE... LOOK, I'LL NEED TO TALK TO THE REST OF THE BAND. BUT I'D BE HAPPY TO HELP YOU OUT.
WOW--I REALLY APPRECIATE THIS!
PLAYING FOR FREE IS A LOT TO ASK.
ACTUALLY, IT'S NOT MUCH LESS THAN WE USUALLY MAKE.